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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

April 19th—25th, 1984
Volume 19, Number 16

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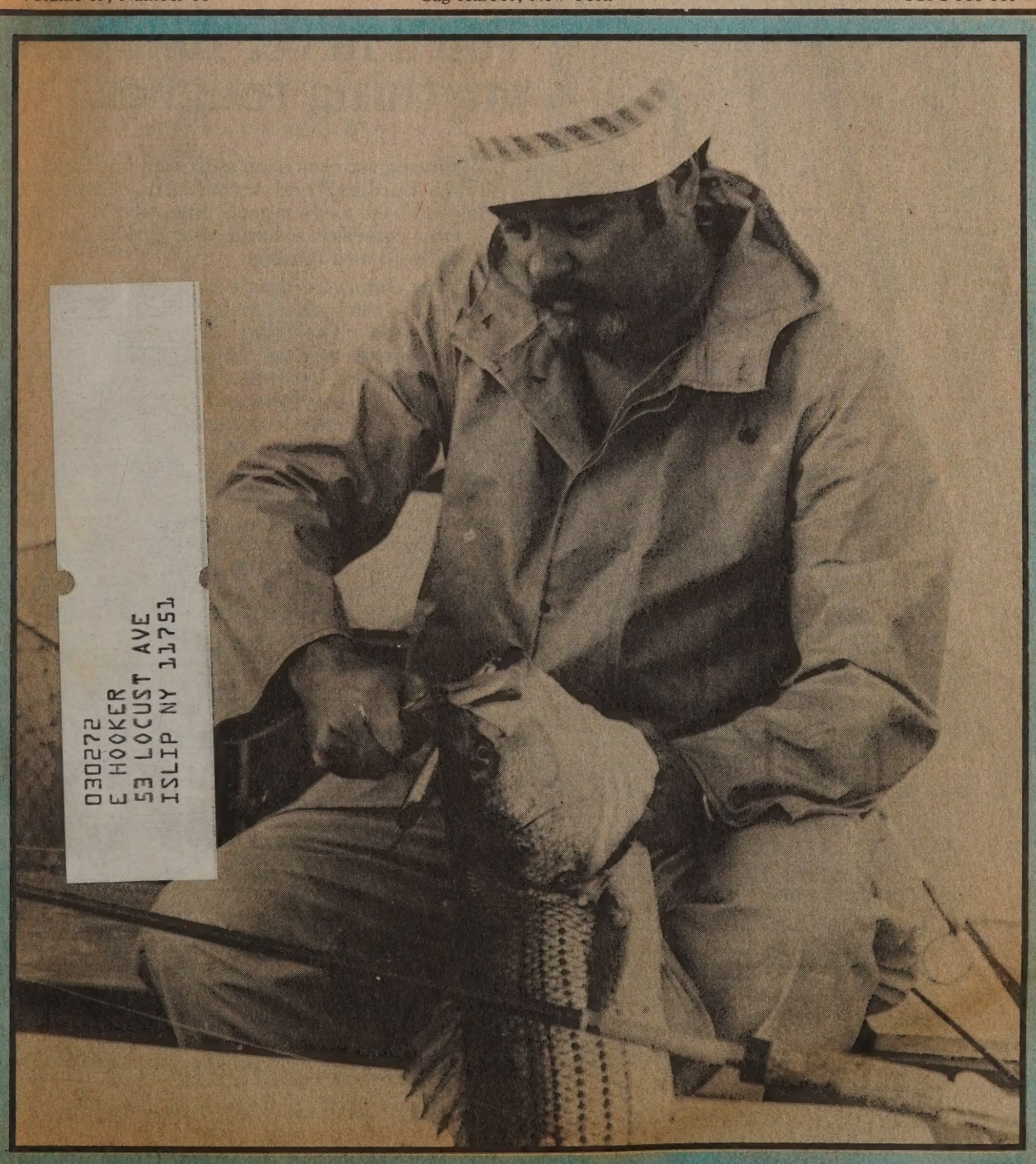

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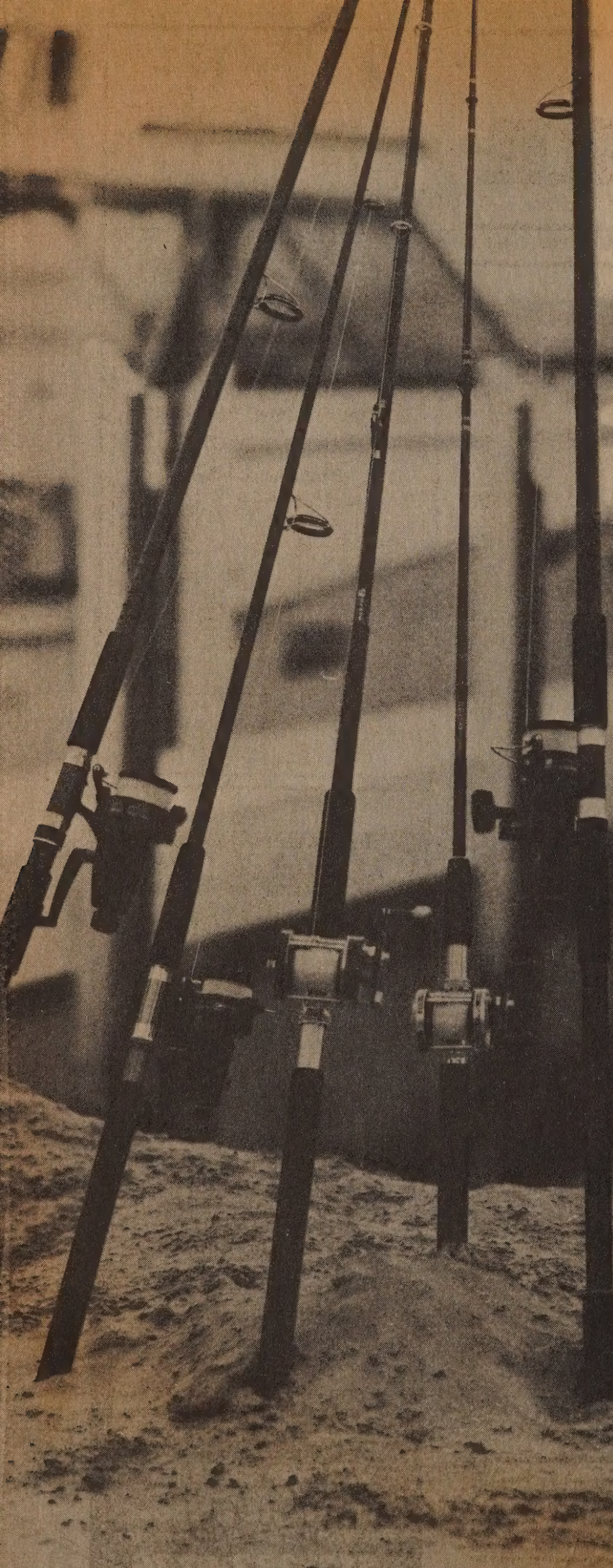

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—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 19, Number 16 April 19th, 1984

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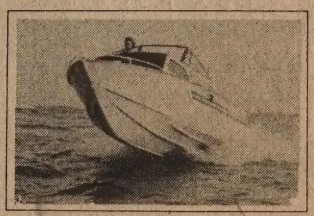

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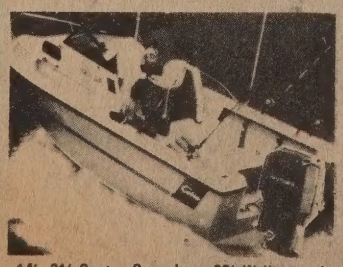

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SOLUTION TO STRIPER CRISIS PROPOSED BY STRIPERS UNLIMITED

Stripers Unlimited, Inc. is seeking, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, for endangered species classification for striped bass over 50 lbs. and threatened species classification for those under 50 lbs. of the Chesapeake Bay strain, due to possible genetic changes which have been observed in the eggs and larvae of striped bass from the Chesapeake Bay system. This is a **unique** strain because of its buoyant, floating egg which is spawned on the tideline where the fresh and salt water meet, and does not need fast, fluvial rivers of up to 100 miles as other strains do.

For the past 12 years SU has struggled to preserve this unique and valuable fishery. Countless unpaid hours of intense physical effort have been given and intense research on the early life stages of striped bass eggs and larvae have been repeatedly called for in order to determine the cause or causes of reproductive failure of this strain in Chesapeake Bay. Make no mistake: the major cause of the decline in coastal stocks IS reproductive failure. Overfishing only exacerbates the problem.

SU has stressed, for many years, that a multi-disciplinary approach is essential, involving embryologists, bio-chemists, developmental biologists and fisheries biologists if a complete study is to be successfully conducted.

Last spring SU observed and photographed eggs and larvae from approximately 26 female striped bass from both Edenton National Fish Hatchery second generation Maryland striped bass stock and from the Elkton, Maryland hatchery. All stages of development were noted and photographed, looking for critical areas in the early life stages for future research efforts.

Samples of these larvae were brought to Dr. Richard Wolke of URI for pathological examination to determine what was causing one of the problems observed in the two different hatcheries. Dr. Wolke sectioned the larvae and finally determined the problem was out of his field of fisheries pathology. He strongly recommended that a developmental anatomist be contacted.

Observations by several researchers indicate that striped bass larvae are no longer able to utilize their oil and yolk simultaneously as they appeared to do in earlier years and thus they starve before they are ready to feed. This problem also exists on the West Coast and in the freshwater impoundments.

Earlier studies, in the 1950s, show that both oil and yolk were utilized more or less simultaneously and that by first feeding, oil and yolk were almost totally consumed.

SU is concerned that later problems may be related to the lack of oil absorption, such as lack of immunity to disease and proper eye and nerve development.

At present, in striped bass, it is unknown how oil should be absorbed or by what means. To ascertain this, SU contacted scientists at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, Dartmouth, Harvard and the University of Illinois. Dr. John P. Wourms, of Clemson University, was recommended as the best in the field of developmental biology.

Dr. Wourms was contacted and agreed to submit a proposal for research in this area to the Chafee Emergency Striped Bass Committee, seeking funding. Following are some excerpts from his outline:

"There is a problem in the decline of striped bass stocks on the East and West Coasts."

"The single most important factor known to effect the population size of marine teleost fishes is the annual recruitment of new individuals as a result of successful spawning, embryonic development and passage through the larval stage. In general, reproductive failure during a single year can be compensated for, but prolonged over a significant number of years, it will lead to the decline of the stocks and **eventual extinction.** Other features, such as intense fishing pressure, predation, reduced food sources, environmental pollutants, etc., can exacerbate any major decline in numbers due to reduced reproductive success. Without the continuous input of new, young, viable individuals, the population or species is doomed.

"This applies to striped bass and most other organisms.

"It is my conclusion, after examining all the material and documents received from SU, that you are dealing with a major problem that involves the developmental biology and developmental genetics of the Chesapeake Bay population and probably other populations of striped bass as well.

"Even on the basis of very preliminary information, the evidence is striking. There is something radically wrong with the early embryonic development of the Chesapeake Bay population of striped bass. Unless corrected, this could lead to **complete reproductive failure.**

"The problems described, namely abnormality and death during embryonic development, constitutes the specific area of inquiry for developmental biology and developmental genetics.

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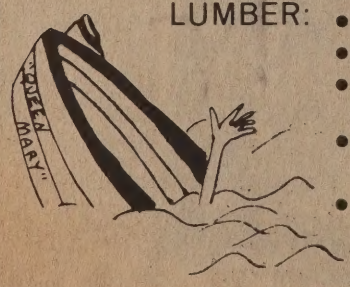

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bass and what might be done to correct the problem, then the services of research scientists with demonstrated proficiency in contemporary research methods of developmental biology and developmental genetics of fishes will be required."

Since this will be a long and costly project, other sources of funding besides Chafee funds will probably have to be sought to supplement those funds.

The results of the young of the year seine survey in Maryland this past year only point out the necessity of protecting the remaining stocks; 1.2-1.5 fish per haul equals the lowest figures ever recorded for the survey in its almost 30 year history. This is the third disastrous year class out of the last four years.

Another alarming trend in the young of the year survey is the dramatic decline in the number of species being taken, down by half from former years. Panfish have virtually disappeared from the freshwater reaches of the bay, according to experienced anglers.

Figures for the New York market for the first six months of 1983 show a 43 percent drop in striped bass landings from 1982. The catch for stripers in Massachusetts for June and July 1983, is down 70 percent from 1982. Massachusetts is the summering ground for the bulk of the migrating stocks.

SU feels that if we are to save this unique population, we must look to selective breeding, utilizing breeders over 50 lbs. Breeders from the 1958 year class and from prior year classes might possibly carry eggs which could produce larvae capable of utilizing oil and yolk more or less simultaneously, as in former years.

Much research needs to be done and time is running out as these large fish are being harvested at an unprecedented rate. The depleted stocks cannot wait for the slow, bureaucratic processes of the states to handle the problem. Only a federal moratorium on catch, as is mandated in the Endangered Species Act of 1973, can preserve the remaining stocks in order to give scientists a chance to find out what is wrong and correct it if possible.

SU has proposed the following in their petition: striped bass over 50 lbs. be declared endangered; striped bass under 50 lbs. be declared threatened.

Use should be made of present facilities and expertise. Since a few fish can strain the facilities at the three present hatcheries now in operation Maryland (Cedarville, Elkton and the C.P. Crane Aquaculture Facility), it wold appear to be more productive for genetic selection of brook stock, to limite collection of female breeders to those in excess of 50 lbs. It has been noted in recent years that striped bass are growing longer and leaner than in the 50s and 60s. In looking for breeders for the hatcheries, it might pay to look for the

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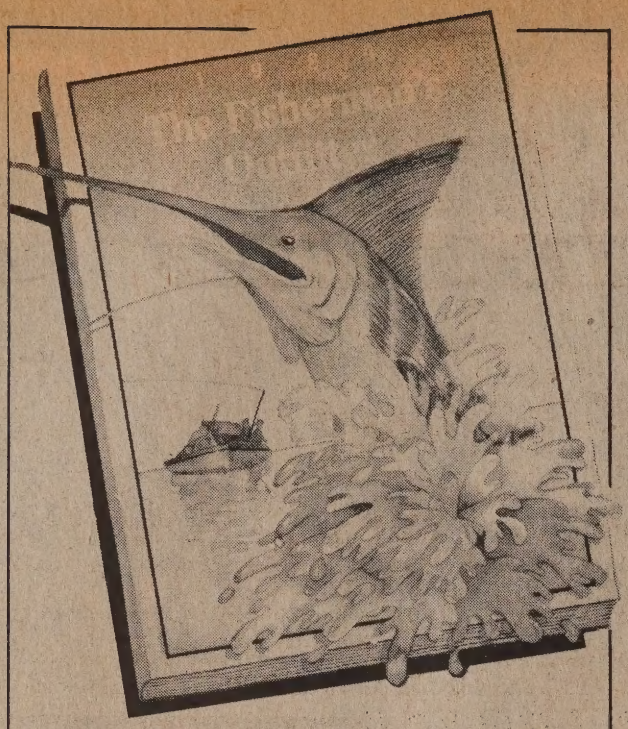

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shorter, deeper females as being among the more viable prospects.

Since males also seem to be carriers of genetic damage, according to Dr. Wourms, older males in the 30 to 40 lb. range should be used. Such males are difficult, but not impossible to find. A 44'' male was captured in the Nanticoke River last spring. Males could also be obtained from sources such as the Colorado River as a back-up.

Edenton National Fish Hatchery, with its ability to spawn and raise generations of striped bass in captivity, could be used extensively in an effort to develop a strong genetic strain of Chesapeake Bay stocks.

This would be a long range project, but the importance of this unique estuarine spawning species, with its invaluable floating egg, cannot be overstressed.

Only a strong commitment from all sections of the fishing community, commercial, recreational and scientific can bring this problem to a successful conclusion. We hope all segments of the fishing community will recognize the critical urgency of this problem. For more info, contact: Stripers Unlimited, at (617) 761) 7983.

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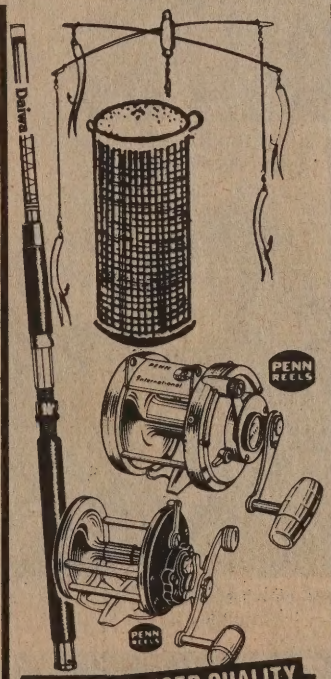

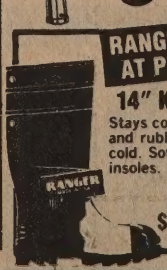

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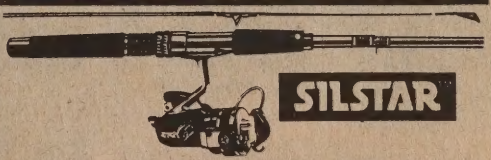

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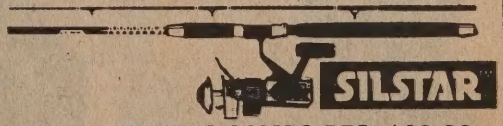

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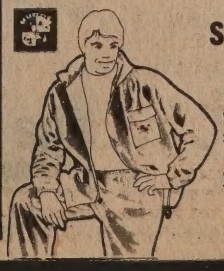

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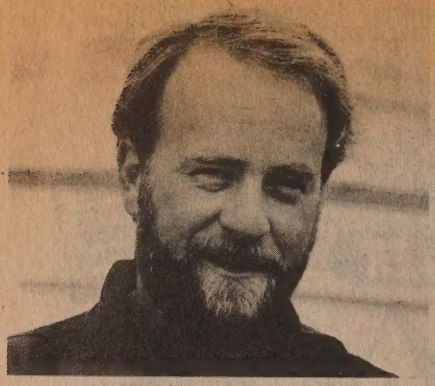

Capt. Mike Harris, *Reward*
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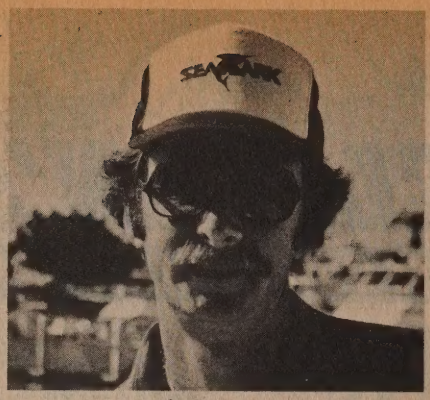
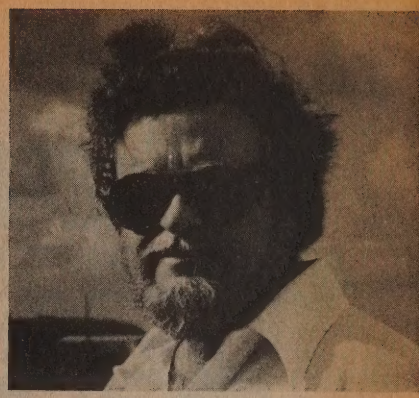
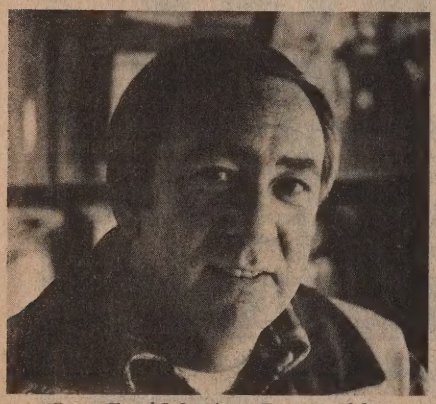


Capt. Mike Hurt, *Seamark*
San Diego, CA

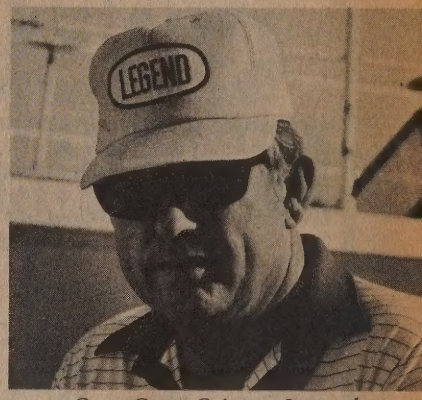


Capt. Roger Martin, *El Pescado*
Islamorada, FL



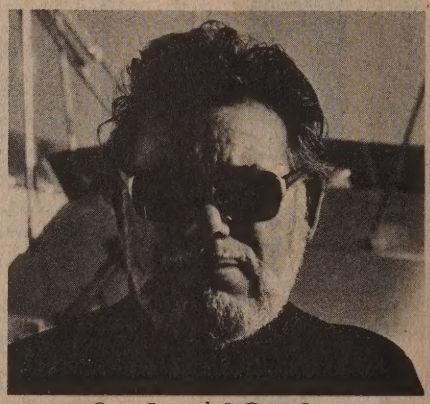
Capt. Fred J. Levine, *Fast Freddie*
Edmonds, WA

Capt. Bill Sheppard, *Scat Cat*
Corpus Christi, TX

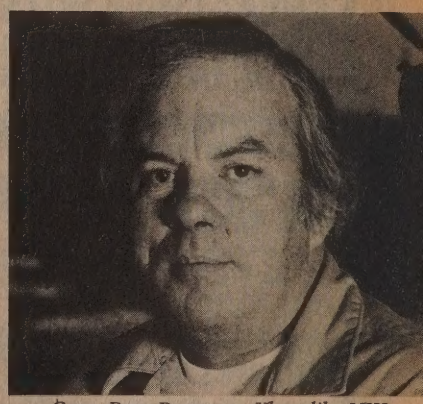


Capt. Gene Grimes, *Legend*
Point Loma, CA

Capt. Don Walwer, *Terry II*
North Eastham, MA

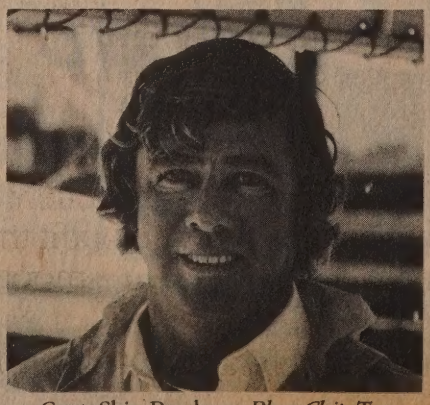


Capt. Joseph LaBue, *Joey*
Chicago, IL

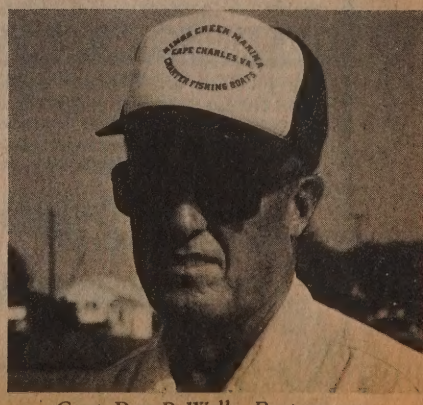


Capt. Pete Pearson, *Klondike VIII*
New Rochelle, NY

Capt. Howard Bogan, *Jamaica*
Brielle, NJ



Capt. Skip Bradeen, *Blue Chip Too*
Islamorada, FL



Capt. Ben R. Walls, *Buccaneer*
Cape Charles, VA

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percent. Your speed with a 50 hp is 30.4. Thus, 30.4 mph times 31.2 percent indicates an increase of 9.48 mph. Add the increase to the 30.4 and you arrive at an estimated speed of 39.88 mph. That's how fast the boat should be with a 90 hp model.

To see how the formula worked in actual practice, the Mercury people checked the theory against a boat test they had done on a center console boat with a running weight of 1,610 pounds. When the boat was timed accurately, the 90 hp model propelled it at 40.9 mph, so the rule of thumb was not a bad indicator. Other checks against actual test data showed similar results.

To make calculations easier you may want to round off the 3.9 percent to 4 percent. Then a 10 percent increase in power would result in a 4 percent increase in speed.

SALTY FLYRODDERS OPENS MEMBERSHIP

The Salty Flyrodders of N.Y. Inc., this coming month will offer an open meeting to greet new or interested fly fishermen. The renowned saltwater fly fishing club situated in both Long Island and New York area is the club to visit for latest information on the growing sport of "saltwater fly-fishing." On May 7th, at 8PM sharp, a movie on "Fishing Costa Rica" will be shown.

All interested should come to Workmans Circle Bldg. 61-11 220 St., Queens, in the basement. Exit 29 on the Expressway is only two blocks from the location. Bring your fly fishing problems and I'm sure the club will have the answers.

STRIPED BASS SEASON REOPENS IN MARINE WATERS

Commissioner Henry G. Williams of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation)DEC) issued a reminder to all fishermen that the fishery for striped bass in marine waters reopened on Monday, April 16, 1984. Under provisions of legislation which became effective on November 7, 1983, striped bass may not be taken in the marine waters of the state during the period December 15 to April 15 inclusive. The law also established a twenty-four inch total length size limit for striped bass taken in marine waters. Commissioner Williams stated that compliance with the new law has generally been good. A recent exception, however, resulted in the apprehension and arrest of two Long Island fishermen with 23 sub-legal size striped bass taken out of season. According to DEC Law Enforcement officials violations of the Environmental Conservation Law are punishable by fines of up to $250.

Commissioner Williams also noted that all fishermen who sell striped bass must obtain a 1984 commercial striped bass license. License applications and information on the striped bass law are available from the Division of Marine Resources Office at Stony Brook. For further information, contact Chester S. Zawacki at (516) 751-7900, Ext. 324.

CG AUXILIARY TO GIVE BOATING SKILLS AND SEAMANSHIP COURSE

Starting Monday, April 23rd, Flotilla 13-10 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will be offering a free Safe Boating Course at Sears on Route 107 in Hicksville in the downstairs meeting room. The course will be given for seven consecutive Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 PM.

This very informative course is the most extensive offered by the Auxiliary. Interesting and practical topics, such as boat handling, rules of the road, aids to navigation, charts and compass, piloting, weather, radiotelephone, and marine engines will be covered.

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be given an official certificate from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

This certificate is honored by most insurance companies for a discount on boat insurance.

For further information, please call Bea Cooper at (516) 221-3996.

NMFS HABITAT POLICY

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has begun the process of implementing its recently adopted nation-wide habitat conservation policy. The new policy will help to ensure that ocean, coastal wetland and estuary habitat concerns are fully considered in NMFS programs and activities. Prior to adoption of this new policy the agency's habitat related activities were generally advisory in nature in response to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. No direct guidance was available for NMFS activities relating to specific areas of responsibilities. For example species which are: 1) covered by and subject to the fishery management plans proposed in response to the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MFCMA) and 2) assigned to NMFS by the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act.

The new policy as presented in the **Federal Register** (Vol. 48, No. 228) is as follows:

"Habitat conservation activities will be responsive to the mission and programs of NMFS. The goal of NMFS' habitat conservation activities will be to maintain or enhance the capability of the environment to ensure the survival of marine mammals and endangered species and to maintain fish and shellfish populations which are used, or are important to the survival and/or health of those used, by individuals and industries for both public and private benefits—jobs, recreation, safe and wholesome food and products.

"NMFS will direct its habitat conservation activities to assist the Agency in (1) meeting its resource management, conservation, protec-

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- ★ TOTAL OF $8500. PRIZE MONEY GIVEN AWAY IN '83 VICTORY TOURNAMENT

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tion or development responsibilities contained in the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Endangered Species Act; and (2) carrying out its responsibilities to the U.S. commercial and marine recreational fishing industry, including fishermen, and the States pursuant to programs carried out under other authorities.

"Since most of NMFS's programs under its broad mandates are influenced by habitat considerations, habitat conservation will be considered and included in the Agency's decision-making in all of its programs. NMFS will bring all of its authorities to bear in habitat conservation. These authorities include those which give NMFS an active, participatory role and those, particularly the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, which give NMFS an advisory role.

"In carrying out its program, NMFS' activities will be conducted in a fashion designed to achieve necessary, orderly coastal development in a timely fashion, while the renewability and productivity of the Nation's living marine resources are maintained or, where possible, enhanced. This action will also benefit other wildlife resources, such as migratory birds.

"Also, NMFS will use its scientific capabilities to carry out the research necessary to support its habitat conservation objectives."

The background statement prepared by NMFS points out that by 1990, 75 percent of the U.S. population will live within 50 miles of the coastline, and thus pressures will continue to grow on coastal and estuarine zones. Hopefully, the new habitat policy will provide improved tools for conservation of these critically important habitats.

YEAR OF THE OCEAN

The Year of the Ocean started March 10 and, as might be guessed, will be observed through March of 1985. Government agencies at all levels and those in the private sector interested in marine matters will cooperate in increasing awareness of the importance of ocean waters which surround this country to the general public.

Special events, open house activities among research facilities and a massive media campaign are designed to kindle new interest in the exploration, development, research, use and enjoyment of the sea around us. Coordinating the effort will be a special non-political Ocean Foundation which includes leaders in industry, academia, government and private organizations involved in the world of water.

Within the time frame will be a celebration of National Fishing Week from June 4 through June 10. A House Joint Resolution (#410) to establish this observance points out that recreational and commercial fishing generate $23 billion to the

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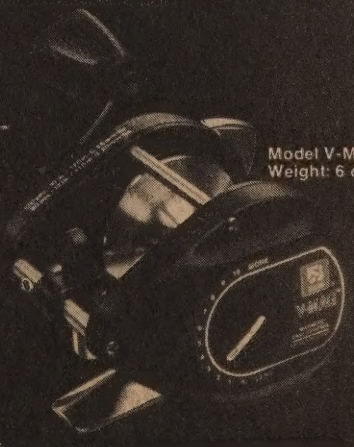

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C 17' to 19', 2000 lb. CAP.	849.00

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C 18' to 20' 2500 lb CAP	995.00
C 20' to 23' 2600 lb CAP	1379.00
SL 19' to 21' 3600 lb CAP	1498.00
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U.S. economy and provide employment to more than a million Americans. Emphasis during National Fishing Week will be placed on the need for proper management of the marine resources and habitat.

PETITION DRIVE FOR STRIPER MORATORIUM UNDER WAY

The Boston-based Striped Bass Emergency Council has begun a coastwide petition drive among fishing clubs, conservation organizations and other citizens, seeking support for a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives that would impose a three-year moratorium on the sale and possession of the Atlantic striper, from Maine to North Carolina.

If you are interested in helping with this effort, please contact Dick Russell, Striped Bass Emergency Council, 27 Fort Avenue, Boston, Mass. 02119. He will send you as many petitions as you need. The petitions will be presented to the Congress in Washington, as soon as possible.

Letters from individuals and organizations are also vital. If you support the Atlantic Striped Bass Restoration Act (House Bill 4884), write to:

Rep. John Breaux, Chairman, Subcommittee on Fisheries, H2-544 House Annex 2, Washington, D.C. 20515; Rep. Claudine Schneider, 1431 Longworth HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Copies of your letters could also go to your own elected legislators in Washington.

STRIPER SURF CLUB DINNER DANCE A SUCCESS

On 3-31-84 the Striper Surf Club, Inc. held its annual dinner dance and awards night at the Spartan Restaurant in Queens. The following awards were given for surf caught striped bass over 15 lbs.:

Most striped bass in surf: Jack VandeKieft, 35 fish.

Largest striped bass: Jack VandeKieft, 51.13 lbs.

Second most striped bass: Chris Sztorc, 16 fish.

Third most striped bass: Joe Sarrantonio, 5 fish.

Fourth most striped bass: Joe Vezo, 4 fish (270 pts).

Fifth most striped bass: John Malenchek, 4 fish (236 pts).

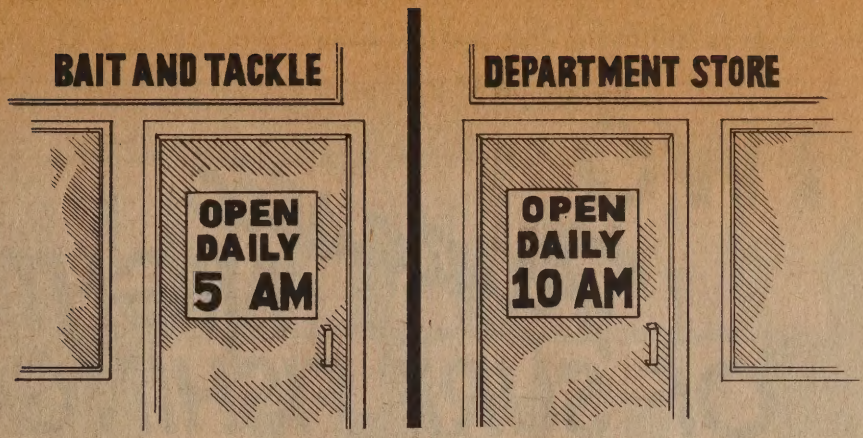
Largest striped bass, New York: Barry Simon, 39.14 lbs.

Most striped bass, New York: Leif Gobel, 4 fish (198 pts).

The following officers were installed for 1984:

President: Frank Demmerle; 1st Vice Pres: John Kaye; 2nd Vice Pres.: Bill Rothwell; Corres. Sec'y: Tom Incantalupo; Recording Sec'y: Leif Gobel; Treasurer: Tony Iesu and Sgt.-at-Arms: joe Vezo.

The club has a few openings for anyone interested in surf fishing, club activities, and participation in **The New York Surf Fishing Contest**. If interested, call Mike Kaland, (516) 868-7402 evenings.



LONG BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT STORES ARE OPEN – YOUR LOCAL BAIT AND TACKLE SHOP IS HELPING YOU!

Real fisherman - and the bait and tackle shops that serve them - don't keep banker's hours. When the fish are running you can pick up anything you need, starting about 5 a.m.

That's long before the discount store with a bait and tackle department are ready for you.

One of the reasons for this kind of service is that your local shops are usually independents ... owner operated. And who do you think cares more about you ... a clerk who is measured by how much he sells, or an owner who wants his customers to keep coming back.

There's another thing about local bait and tackle shops. They're mostly right near the water ... where you need them

Also, along with bait shop service, you get the little things that help. Weather reports. Fishing reports. Maybe even some local gossip about who caught what ... and where. Sure, it's a very personal touch, but it happens when people care about people ... as people.

Finally you have to think about experience. You have to consider people who've learned about fishing the way you have ... by doing it. And, over the years, you can learn alot about fishing, and people who fish, and fishing gear.

Of course, if you're a big store with a bait and tackle department you can always hire the people who have the experience you don't. If you can find them. If they are willing to give up their independence.

One of the things you learn about fishing is patience. Your local bait and tackle shops have that. So, in addition to being all over Long Island - and near the water - your locals are willing to wait until you find out who can serve you better ...

A department store ... or a group of bait and tackle dealers who care for the same things you do. Think about it.

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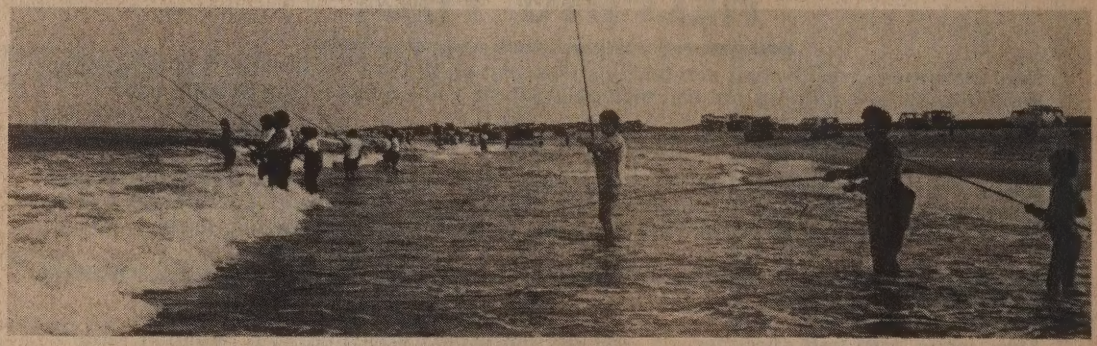

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FEDS MOVE TOWARDS RECREATIONAL LICENSE & HABITAT CONSERVATION

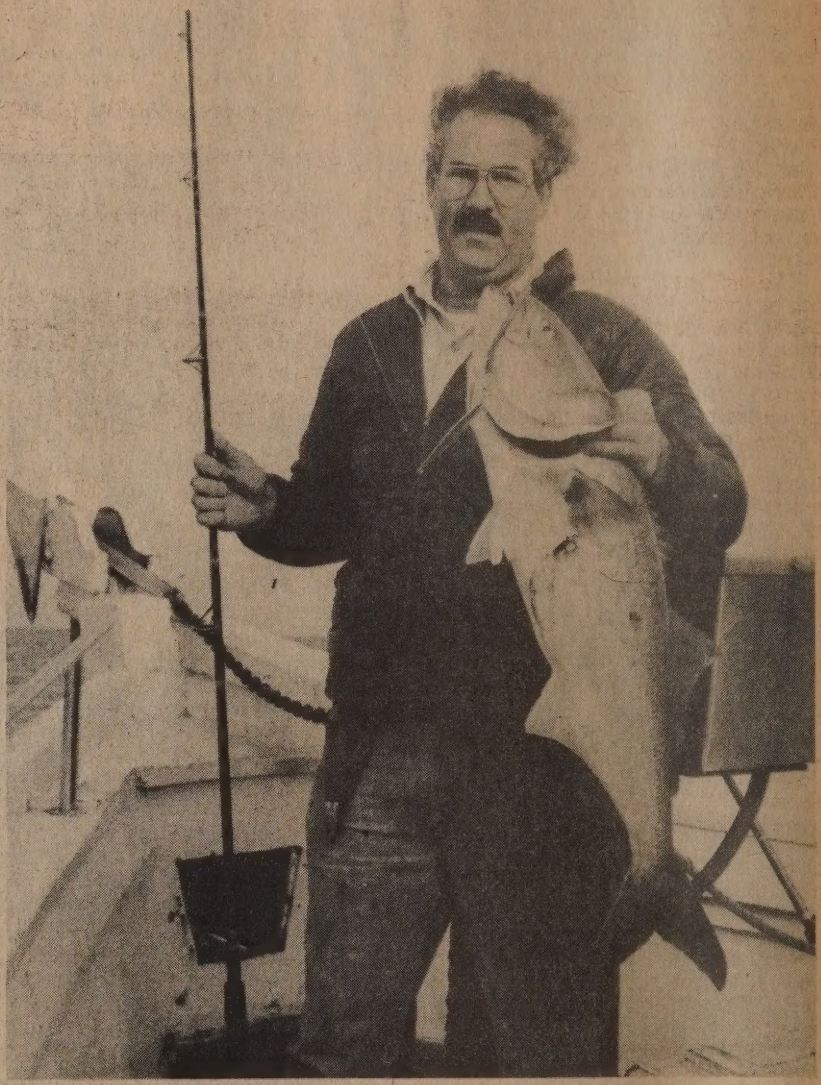
by William A. Muller

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has announced through its assistant administrator for fisheries, William G. Gordon, the implementation of a National Marine Habitat Conservation Policy. The policy has twelve implementation strategies which define and elaborate the policy's primary management and research areas. The essence of the policy will be to 1) increase attention to habitat conservation on species for which the Federal fisheries agency has management or protection responsibilities; 2) lay the foundation for management and research cooperation within the Fisheries Service, and 3) strengthen Fisheries Service partnerships with the states and the eight regional fishery management councils.

NMFS will provide assistance, guidance, and follow-up studies in cooperation with various groups and agencies specific to habitat protection. NMFS also stressed that it will "recognize that multiple uses of marine areas as necessary.

NMFS "...has primary responsibility for the conservation, management, and development of living marine resources and for the protection of certain marine mammals and endangered species. However, until the passage of the Magnuson Fisheries Conservation and Management Act of 1976, the role of NMFS was determined by the Wildlife Coordination Act and the National Environmental Policy Act which gave NMFS an important advisory role. Under the Magnuson Act the NMFS has a much broader authority. The establishment of the Habitat Conservation Policy represents the activation of those responsibilities and authorities and will mean that NMFS will interact more deliberately and specifically with other agencies and state and local governments.

NMFS cites "The U.S. commercial and marine recreational fishing industry [sic.ies] make(s) an important contribution to the Nation's economy." NMFS estimates the commercial contribution to the gross national product to be about $7 billion, while about 20 million marine recreational fishermen contribute about $5 billion to the gross national product in direct costs **only**. Most experts multiply the direct cost figure by anywhere from three to ten times in order to determine the total economic benefit from direct and indirect sources. NMFS also indicates that recreational fishermen account for about 35 percent of the finfish that ends up on the table as human food.



Key to habitat protection are the preservation of salt marshes and other wetlands that supports two-thirds of our important fishery resources. Of course, these important salt marsh habitats are located along the coast and because of their location they have been and will continue to be under tremendous pressure by people and their activities. According to NMFS, by 1990, 75 percent of the U.S. population will live within 50 miles of coastlines. The pressure on wetlands will continue high. It is estimated that between 1954 and 1978 there was an average annual loss of about 104,000 acres of wetlands and in spite of deliberate efforts from government and private groups of concerned citizens to preserve these habitats; that figure represents about a tenfold increase in the rate of loss over the period 1780 to 1954.

NMFS reports the complexity of

managing marine habitats because many levels of government have some type of authority. This complexity must be addressed in terms of consistency of actions and the continued promotion of close cooperation between the National Marine Fisheries Service and other levels of government.

On another front, it is clear that governments and their agencies are increasingly aware of the importance of marine recreational fishing both to the vitality of economies and the social well-being of our citizens. More and more, official documents and reports mention the role of recreational fishing and its relation to a wide range of concerns. Not surprisingly then, Congress is beginning to focus on its role in maintaining both resources and fishing opportunity. Perhaps H.R. 2965, introduced on May 10, 1983, reflects this concern among some congressmen. The bill is "to provide for uniform state licensing of marine recreational fishermen."

The bill begins by stating, "marine recreational fishing constitutes a significant source of employment and contributes substantially to the economy of the nation." Further it states, "It is the policy of the Congress to encourage uniformity of marine recreational fishing license laws." In addition, "to ensure that funds accruing from the sale of marine recreational licenses are devoted exclusively to marine recreational fisheries purposes." The areas of funds dedication shall be: development of facilities, scientific research, habitat protection. The bill provides that administrative costs shall not exceed 30 percent.

Other provisions of the bill are: persons between 16 and 62 will need a license to fish in marine waters, vessels for hire will need a vessel license that will cover patrons as well as the vessel and crew and that said vessels will need to keep a log of their activities. Fishermen on piers may also be covered if the owner of the pier has obtained a recreational fishing pier license.

The bill further states that the Federal Law will pre-empt any state license laws unless the states adhere to the same criteria as outlined for the Federal law. There shall also be reciprocity between all state licenses and the Federal law as well.

The law would also set up a schedule of fees for fines to be paid by those in violation of the law, a financial appropriation for the administration of the law, and encouragement for enforcement by all suitable Federal, state and local enforcement agencies. The penalties range from $50 for individual up to $2000 for vessel violations.

License fees have been suggested to be $5 for individual and $500 for recreational fishing vessel or pier license. If passed into law, it would take effect on the third anniversary of the date of enactment.

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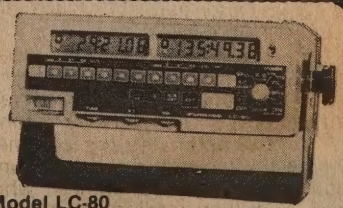

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HEARING HELD ON STRIPER MORATORIUM

by Dick Russell

The striped bass had its day in Congress on March 20th, as twelve invited witnesses including Federal and state fisheries managers, scientists and conservationists testified before a House subcommittee on a bill that would impose a coastwide three-year moratorium.

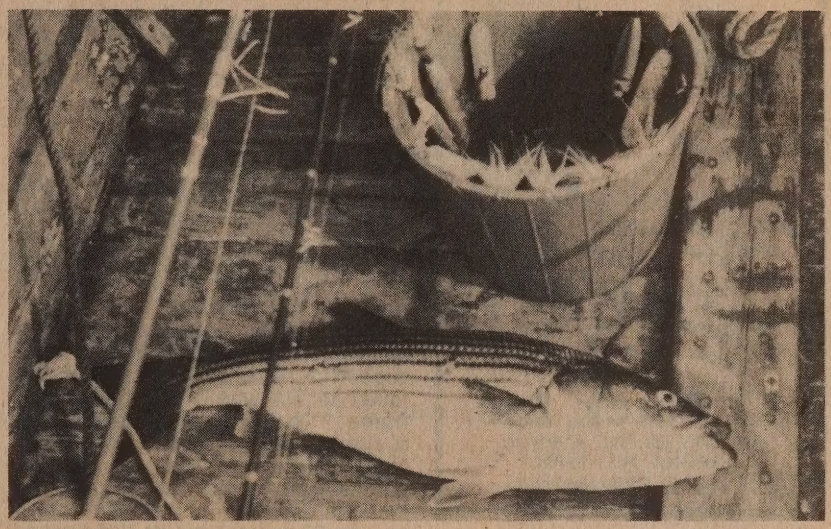
A few days later, addressing a gathering of 1,000 people at a wildlife conference in Boston, Senator John Chafee of Rhode Island announced his intention to introduce a similar bill on his side of the Congress. Chafee's approach calls for a moratorium in any state which fails to implement immediately the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's recommended 55 percent cutback in striper fishing effort.

So it now seems almost a certainty that an expanded Federal role in seeking to restore the striper population will happen within the next few months. The states' poor track record in applying uniform management is about to bring a Congressional stick down on their heads—not a moment too soon for the striper.

Events on the stripers' political battlefront are moving so fast these days, it is almost like following daily reports from a war zone. Before we take an inside look at what's been happening in Washington, let's examine developments in several key coastal areas.

Maryland. After several commercial netters successfully obtained a court injunction blocking new regulations that would have shut down their striper fishing in March for the Chesapeake Bay spawning season, the State Senate responded by passing an emergency moratorium bill effective until June 1st. However, the House balked at doing the same when the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) asserted that its regulatory package would be enough. The Senate committee chairman condemned DNR boss Dr. Torrey Brown for "selling out" to the commercial fishing interests; but in a conference the legislature voted through the DNR's compromise instead of the moratorium.

These new Maryland regulations, which were only a 20 percent reduction anyway, became meaningless since the netters had won the right to keep fishing until the legislature acted on March 22nd. According to a biologist for DNR, the netters were



hitting hard on the 1982 year-class of stripers—the pre-spawners which may be the last real hope to revive the Chesapeake population.

New York. Conservationists and sport fishermen are locked in another battle in the State Legislature, against commercial fishermen who've forced introduction of a bill that would allow them 100 pounds of stripers per day **under** 24 inches. Any chance for consideration of the proposed additional 55 percent reduction hasn't even surfaced yet. Thus, the greed of a handful may virtually ensure an impending moratorium in New York this summer, if the Federal initiative goes through.

Massachusetts. More than 200 fishermen attended a public meeting to discuss various options with state officials on how to achieve the 55 percent cutback. But in the two days preceding the meeting, the **Boston Globe** editorial page and outdoor writer Tony Chamberlain both came out in total support of the Federal moratorium bill. Although fisheries manager Randy Fairbanks didn't even want to discuss anything but a limited season, higher size limit or possibly no-sale, in a show of hands 40 fishermen expressed their desire for a complete moratorium. That was second only to 43 who favored no-sale.

Meantime, at a meeting of the Cape Cod Charterboat Association, all 42 members present voted **unanimously** to support the coastal moratorium move—a remarkable conservation message, since the skippers were voting to put themselves out of the bass charter business! The Mass. Striped Bass Association, in its own monthly meeting, voted against the moratorium effort (38-21), but almost unanimously for a coastal no-sale law (51-1).

Rhode Island. The three-year ban on striper possession will remain in effect at least until summer, as the Marine Fisheries Council waits on the outcome of the coastal biologists' workshop in Woods Hole, Mass., in early April, where the 55 percent plans of each state will be scrutinized by a scientific committee of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Now, back to Washington. The opening witnesses at the moratorium bill hearing were Federal officials John Byrne, Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Joseph Kutkuhn of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Both men came out against not only the moratorium—preferring that management remain in the hands of the states—but in opposition to continuing the $5 million Emergency Striped Bass Study whose Federal funding expires this year.

But the cautious administrators were quickly taken to task by both Rep. Claudine Schneider of Rhode Island, author of the moratorium legislation, and by Massachusetts

(Continued on next page.)

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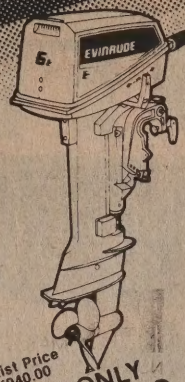

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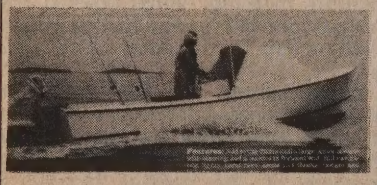

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Rep. Gerry Studds. Asked by Mrs. Schneider how important the stripers' survival was to them, on a scale of 1 to 10, both officials said "10." Asked by Studds how much peril they thought the bass was in, Kutkuhn again responded "10."

"Well," replied Studds, "I'm sure if the gentle lady from Rhode Island still had the floor, she would question either your passion or your analysis. If indeed you are committed to the species and if indeed it is near its maximum peril, then surely something needs to be done and fast!" Studds then went on to quiz the administrators about the lack of continuity by the states.

"When you say to me that **most** states are responding, I can only infer that some of them are not. That could be a fatal omission, could it not?" asked Studds. "Yes," the administrators replied. Studds continued: "I think some extraordinarily difficult management questions are raised by the situation in which the striped bass finds itself. We had better give a little more creative thought as to how to deal with this problem."

Studds then pressed the two witnesses on whether they might support a Federal ban if the states failed to act within a certain timeframe. "Do you have any sense at all of time closing in on us?" he asked. "Yes," said the Fish & Wildlife administrator, "We should give the states a deadline in the near future (on the 55 percent plans)." Asked to specify, he responded: "Sixty days."

Studds: "How would you feel about a date being set for a moratorium to be imposed if the states have not complied fully with these regulations?"

Byrne: "Certainly that would go a long way toward getting the states to work together in their own best interests."

Studds: "I think that is about as close to an endorsement of this proposal by the Administration as we can reasonably anticipate."

Before a packed hearing room, the testimony proceeded. Dr. John Boreman offered the grim results of the Federal striper study, including the harvest statistics for last year. "Reported commercial landings of striped bass from Maine to North Carolina for 1983 (1.6 million pounds) represent a drop of over 25 percent from the 1982 level (2.2 million pounds) and is equal to the lowest reported catch on a record that extends back to 1929."

Dr. Phil Goodyear, Boreman's partner in the study, then offered a telling comparison of the anticipated results of the 55 percent reduction plan as opposed to a total moratorium. According to Goodyear, under the current 55 percent idea, "it could take **several decades** to restore the stock to its former level of abundance." But "the elimination of fishing as a source of mortality has the potential to cause the population to increase ten to twentyfold from generation to generation. Thus, it is theoretically possible to restore the stock to the level of abundance of the 1960s in little more than a decade."

Clearly, a temporary moratorium would bring a more rapid turnaround in the stripers' decline. This was the opinion of five witnesses, including this writer, Gilbert Radonski of the Sport Fishing Institute, Dr. Saul Saila of the University of Rhode Island, State Senator Gerald Winegrad of Maryland, and Bob Pond of Stripers Unlimited.

Pond made a strong plea for research into a possible genetic change he believes he's detected in the Chesapeake stripers' larval stage, noting that the fish no longer seem able to utilize their oil and yolk simultaneously, causing a debilitating effect on their eyes and nerve development.

Radonski noted that the U.S. Constitution "contains ample support for the development of a comprehensive body of Federal wildlife law" and that this takes precedence over state law whenever a conflict arises. The "states rights" question was definitely the main topic of the day, particularly in view of Subcommittee Chairman John Breaux. A Republican from Louisiana, Breaux appeared strongly opposed to direct Federal intervention in what has traditionally been the states' territorial responsibility within three miles of shore.

In my own testimony, on behalf of the Striped Bass Emergency Council, I sought to defuse such arguments by showing how only three of the 12 coastal states had enacted the earlier management plan by January, 1983, a year-and-a-half after it was called for. If such foot-dragging continues on the new 55 percent proposals, the striper will almost certainly vanish as a fisherman's resource.

In a recent "Fishing Forecast" written by Maryland state fisheries biologist Joe Boone, this point was hammered home succinctly. "Though not the resource of a particular state, each state establishes harvest regulations within its boundaries. Consequently, each state warily eyes the catch elsewhere, intent on getting a 'fair share' of the booty. Naturally, self-interest and politics permeate every phase of harvest deliberations. Management becomes cumbersome, chaotic, and exasperatingly slow, even in times of perceived emergency. What is every state's responsibility is no one's responsibility..."

But testimony from Phil Coates, chairman of the coastal states' Striped Bass Board, and even Dr. Rudy Rosen of the National Wildlife Federation chose to ignore such realities and opted instead to give the states time. So the hearing resulted in a 5-5 split, for and against the moratorium bill, plus testimony from the two scientific experts.

Rep. Schneider felt that the hearing results were encouraging, however. She was particularly pleased by Congressman Studds' strong stand, al-

though Studds has not signed on as a co-sponsor and is said to be considering a bill more along the lines of Senator Chafee's. It was obvious that Chairman Breaux, who is far more concerned about states rights than striped bass, would be the primary stumbling block against her efforts. But within a week after the hearing, her number of co-sponsors had risen to 50, including 10 of the 28 Subcommittee members and 16 of the 39 Committee members through whom the bill must pass if it is ever to reach the House floor. With a few more supporters, she would have a majority on the responsible Subcommittee and Committee.

In the Senate, Chafee's bill would not be as strong as that of his Rode Island counterpart in the House. It would not impose an automatic three to five year Federal moratorium, based on the Chesapeake's annual survey of striper reproductive success. Chafee's moratorium would be in effect only until the individual states got their acts together on the 55 percent reduction plan. Keep in mind that this 55 percent is a decrease in fishing **beyond** what that effort would have been with the earlier management plan (the 24 inch limit) in place in 1984.

Chafee reasons that a flat ban by the Congress would weaken the will of the various Atlantic states to stay involved in bass preservation. "My bills says look, we've got to get the states enthusiastically into this act or we're not going to get anywhere," he said at a press conference after his Boston speech. "My concern is, if we take the full responsibility in Congress, the states will say 'Phooey on you. If you want it, you go ahead and implement it'. And we just don't have enough people out there to do it. Besides, this goes way beyond how many fish are caught. It gets into the quality of habitat and water. If the states aren't going to be enthusiastic about those aspects, too, we're going to be in tough shape."

Chafee's bill, while containing an emergency section dealing only with the striper, will go beyond just the bass' plight. It will be an omnibus-type measure, giving the Congress a handle to prod the states into action whenever **any** migratory fish gets in trouble in the future. That means the Atlantic salmon, the weakfish, even the bluefish could become subject to a Federal regulatory mechanism—a potentially very important tool.

But at the moment, it's the striped bass whose existence is most severely threatened. It's still this writer's hope that the House version of the moratorium bill will succeed, tied to the young-of-the-year survey and containing a provision to give the regulating back to the states with Federal overseeing scrutiny once the moratorium is lifted. This kind of sacrifice **now** will hopefully provide us many more striped bass within a few years. Anything less may only be prolonging the agony.

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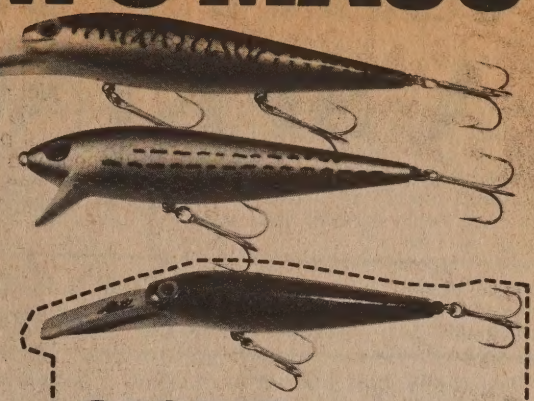

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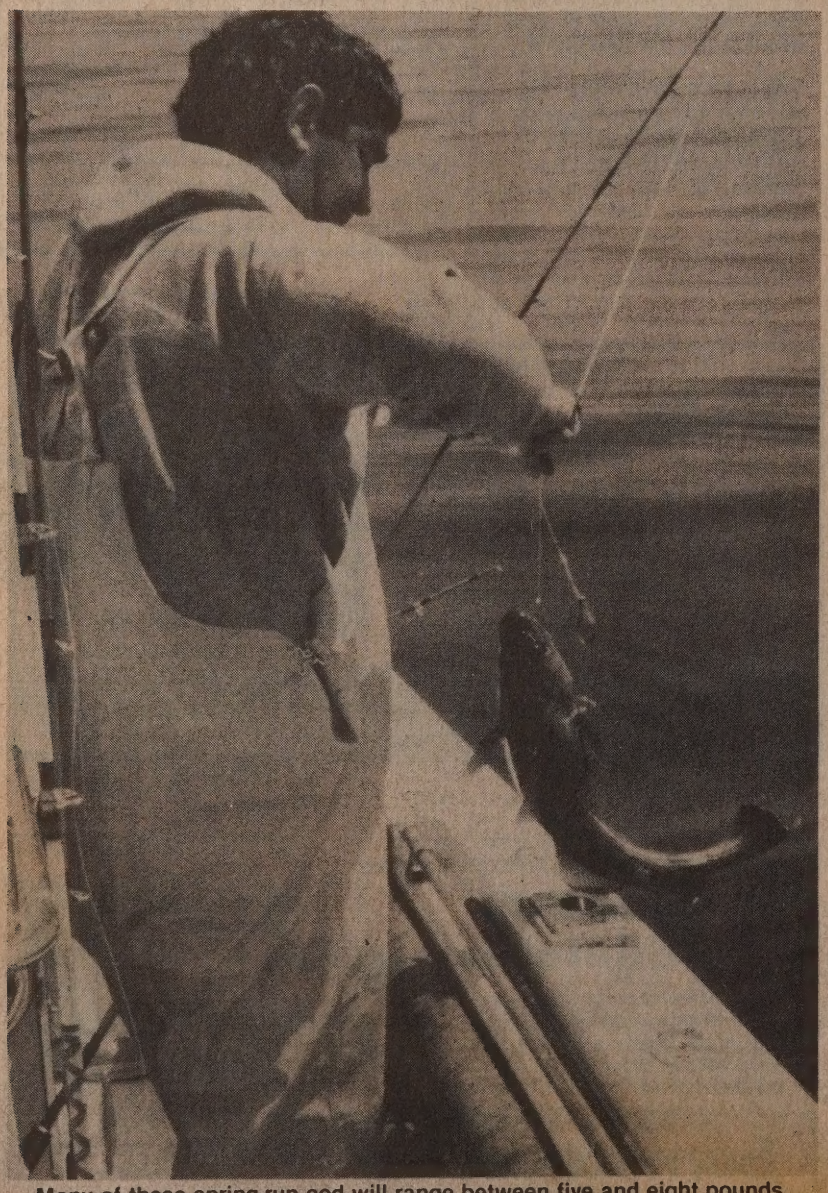
CARTWRIGHT COD: A SPRING BOUNTY

by Capt. Bill Ricca

Montauk's Cartwright grounds rank right at the top among East Coast hotspots.

The Cartwright Grounds are located six to seven miles south/southeast of Montauk Point Lighthouse. The area is divided into two specific fishing spots: Inner Cartwright and Outer Cartwright. The water depth varies from the high 80s at Inner Cartwright to about 110 feet at the Outer Grounds. For years Cartwright has been noted for its winter and spring cod and for its abundant late summer and fall jumbo bluefish.



Many of these spring-run cod will range between five and eight pounds.

The bottom consists mainly of gravel and rock and is generally void of the underwater peaks and valleys that are more prevalent just a little north and east between Montauk and Block Island.

What makes these fish return to this area year after year can be summed up in one word: Food. The bottom in this area is loaded with small crabs, lobsters and snails, etc. In addition, great concentrations of bergalls, small blackfish, sea bass, sea robins, conger eels, bunker, herring, sand eels and other bait fish inhabit and flourish on this plateau. Cod will feed on almost anything, so Cartwright provides a living smorgasbord for them.

Cod generally take up residence at Cartwright in December just after the dogfish, which replaced the bluefish back in November, move out.

Here, fishing for cod goes on all winter and carries over into spring. Peak fishing occurs from late March, through April, and at times into May. As the spring sun warms the Atlantic, cod move offshore into deeper water. Charter, open and private boats all cash in on some fine fishing.

The best fishing is usually in the earlier part of the season. However, this is also the time of year that weather (bad weather) could have an adverse effect on your trip. Changing seasons bring on changing weather patterns, often accompanied by strong winds and unsettled weather. This is the chance you take when planning any fishing trip, especially at this time of year.

Codfishing has definitely been on the upswing over the last few seasons. This is true not only for Montauk, but also for the entire East Coast. I feel that this is a direct result of having the 200 mile limit in effect. This 200 mile limit refers to a law passed in 1976 setting up a 200 mile zone off our coast which restricts foreign nations fishing in our waters. Prior to this, foreign fishing fleets, particularly those of the Soviet Bloc Nations were very visible along our coasts. With modern ships and equipment they depleted many of our fish stocks to the point of there being

very little left for us. This 200 mile limit put a stop to this. It has taken a few years for the various species to regenerate from these restrictions, but things seem to be on the upswing. Several species, such as cod, winter flounder and fluke have all made excellent comebacks.

Fishing for cod at Cartwright is not really that different from codfishing elsewhere. However, since this is not wreck fishing, extremely heavy tackle is not needed. Medium to medium heavy action rods, capable of handling 10 to 12 ounce sinkers or six to eight ounce jigs are best suited for this fishing. Rods 6½ to 7½ feet in length with a good revolving reel spooled with 30 pound test line will do fine. For this type of fishing, I like the Penn 140M Squidder, the fast retrieve Penn 3/0 112H, and the Daiwa 50H reels. Hooks are a matter of personal preference, but my choice is a 6/0 or 7/0 beak style bait holder hook. Mine are snelled on 16 inch leaders and I'll almost always use two hooks. They will be tied one above the other about 2½ to 3 feet apart. The lower hook will be about 12 to 14 inches above the sinker. Fresh skimmer clams are the universal bait for cod and I have found that contrary to many opinions, it is not necessary to really load up each hook with several skimmers. In fact, there are times when a half of a skimmer clam on each hook will do better than a whole one, especially if you switch to a smaller hook such as 3/0 or 5/0. The cod taken during the spring averaged around 8 lbs., however, there were enough 15 to 30 lb. fish around to make things interesting. Cod in the 50 lb. class are occasionally taken here, but are the exception. Fishing will be done either at anchor or drifting. A lot depends on the weather, tide and how thick the fish are.

Since the bottom is so paved with baitfish, it is possible at times to jig cod. This type of fishing consists of lowering a diamond jig and surgical tube rig to the bottom and simply reeling it back up once it hits. Since cod are generally bottom feeders, it is not necessary to reel the jig all the way to the surface every time, but rather only about 20 turns are necessary. It's advisable, however, to check your jig for weeds or tangles at regular intervals. The speed at which you retrieve your jig is critical. Cod, unlike bluefish, require a slow to moderate rate of retrieve. Once a bump is felt you should immediately set the hook. Jigs that are popular are the Ava, Bridgeport Slab jig and the Tri-Fin Teardrop jig, each in either six or eight ounces. These jigs may or may not be adorned with a tube. Where the tube really comes into play is as a teaser. This teaser is tied 2½ to 3 feet above the jig by means of a dropper loop. You will find that more cod will be taken on the teaser tube than the jig. Tube colors vary, but red, green, black and white seem to work best. Cod, while not in a fighting class with bluefish, do give a respectable accounting of themselves. However, it is at the dinner table that, in my opinion, they reign as king. There is nothing better than a fresh cod fillet broiled in butter.

For those who own trailer boats, Cartwright should be fished with a great deal of caution. This is the Atlantic Ocean, not some back bay or harbor. To reach the fishing grounds one must pass through areas such as Shagwong, Pollock Rip and an area near the Light known as the Elbow. On fine summer days, these places are generally no problem for a large, seaworthy, trailerable boat. However, early spring is a different situation as strong winds and wind against tide situations can make the area a nightmare. While it may be "fishable" offshore, getting there and back could be a problem. Montauk's charter and party boat fleet is fully equipped with the latest in safety, communications and electronic equipment and private boatmen working these grounds would be wise to be equally well equipped. Advanced electronic navigational as well as communications equipment and fish finding units will not only get you to and from the fishing grounds, but will afford you that margin of safety needed whenever one ventures out of the inlet.

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CITY LINE STRIPERS

by John Fritz

The shores of Little Neck Bay play host to hordes of early season striper hopefuls.

By the time the month of March is ready to be torn from the calendar, most local bass fishermen are ready for any type of striper activity. The tackle so carefully cleaned during the winter months is now starting to gather a layer of dust and the sedentary cold weather pastimes can no longer fill the void left by the departure of the striped bass several months before. Even with the trend of the last few years, where springtime surf fishing seems to start at a later date, Little Neck Bay, true to its custom, still produces ample opportunities to catch striped bass throughout the month of April. While most of the bass taken are school fish and the majority of fishermen prefer to fish bait, the placid waters of this sheltered bay are ideal for light tackle fishing using artificials.

Little Neck Bay, lying on the western edge of Long Island Sound, is supplied almost exclusively by the bass population of the Hudson River. Since this fishery is in relatively good shape, anglers fishing in waters sustained by Hudson River bass can enjoy rewards reminiscent of days gone by. With Little Neck Bay being the acknowledged origin of the Island bass season, the time is ripe to straighten out those kinks in the line with some lively striper action.

In some years the first signs of bass are detected by hard-bitten fishermen during the closing days of March. The shallow waters of this bay are quickly heated by the warm spring sun, accelerating the return of marine life to another active cycle in their life span. With the increasing warmth of April's weather, activity in the bay escalates, with some memorable evenings possible in the latter part of the month if conditions are right. For those of you familiar with Little Neck Bay, let this be a reminder that current trends point to this being a good year. For those of you who have never cast a lure into these waters, I'll try to get you started on the right track and point out a few options as to the manner of taking striped bass from this bay.

While many of the fish taken here will fall below the 24 inch minimum length, there will be enough keepers around to spice the action.

Little Neck Bay straddles the city line in the northeast corner of Queens. A goodly portion of its eastern shore lies outside the city line and is generally inaccessible to non-residents; therefore, let us direct our interest towards the opposite shore where the bay is bordered by the Cross Island Parkway. Passage can be gained from Northern Blvd. on the south, Bell Blvd. on the north, or via two pedestrian crosswalks—one at Crocheron Park off of 35th Ave. and the other opposite the marina at the end of 28th Ave. Most of the attention is centered on either end of the bay with the southern portion becoming crowded during the height of this short season. The main reason for the popularity of the southwest corner is due to the fact that here is where a sizeable creek empties into the bay after draining the marshlands to the south. At this point is found a sandy beach which is the first area to be taken by anglers vying for the better locations.

Specialized or fancy tackle is not necessary when fishing this bay; any rod and reel capable of slinging two or three ounce sinkers will suffice for long casts are rarely required. A medium action 9 or 10 foot rod used with a reel similar to a Penn 710 or 650 and spooled with 10 to 15 lb. test line is more than adequate. But don't let the lack of such tackle prevent you from trying this area. As stated before these are quiet waters where the fish will prowl the shallows close to shore, therefore, the need of heavy saltwater gear is not a must.

The terminal rig can be either the standard fish finder rig or a double loop rig, sometimes known as a pompano rig. Cork floats are often

dispensed with, but it is always a good idea to carry along a few leaders previously rigged with various sized corks should the loss of bait to the bottom creatures become too frequent. Either pyramid or bank sinkers in weights of either two or three ounces will be more than sufficient, with one ounce sinkers acceptable if light tackle is to be used. Some anglers may be seen using sinkers weighing four ounces or more, but this is only to gain greater casting distance; a practice usually unnecessary.

Baits preferred at this time are sea worms, either blood, ribbon or sand, with sandworms being the overall favorite. Due to the fact that most of the fish taken are school bass, a 1/0 Eagle Claw bait holder hook is an ideal choice. Successful bass fishermen will impale two or three whole sandworms on each hook leaving the major portion of the body to trail enticingly in the currents. If the point of the hook is forced into the worm's mouth, penetrating about 1/4 of an inch and exiting through the top of the head, the strongest segment of the worm will be threaded on the hook ensuring that the entire worm will remain intact during the cast.

It should be noted that the worms should be fresh, without the tail rot evident when worms are kept too long. Worms that are freshly dug will remain on the hook better and prove more attractive to a suspicious bass. Tackle dealers usually receive their worm shipments on certain days, ordinarily a day before the weekend rush if everyday demand is light. Find out when your favorite shop receives his supply; if it is only once a week, ask if you could order worms by the flat at other times of the week. Usually one or two days notice is required by the shop owner and remember that he has little control over the quality of the worms he receives from the shipper. It should also be pointed out that even if there is a change in plans, the commitment should be carried out and not leave a helpful shopkeeper stuck with a supply of perishable bait for which he has little use.

The overwhelming majority of bait fishermen choose the tides two hours before to two hours after high water. Because the bay is comprised of shallow mud flats the lower stages of the tide leave insufficient water on the flats, forcing the bass to seek the protection of the deeper channels. Another factor which leads to successful fishing is the wind, or rather the lack of wind, for any wave action will tend to stir up the bottom sediments and seriously affects the chances of success. Brisk winds from the north or east are detrimental to the fishing, while strong west or southerly winds are partially blocked by the hills behind the shore so that they have less effect on the water surface.

Those of you who spurn the use of bait, preferring instead to seek fish on artificials, can find ample rewards for your efforts. Rather than interfering with the bait fishermen, who tend to congregate in the more open areas of the shore, plug casters prefer the extreme opposite ends of the bay. One favored location is found at the southeast corner of Fort Totten. The land mass of the Fort somewhat constricts the outward flow of the ebbing tide, forming a natural place for predators to lie in wait for bait fish and, therefore, an ideal place for an angler to seek game fish. The most productive time to fish this location is during the first few hours of the outgoing tide; after that, the shallow, rocky bottom makes the working of most lures difficult.

Even though time can be spent working the entire shoreline, with some chance of success, the time would be better spent plugging along the edge of the creek at the southern end of the bay. Once again, the upper stages of the tide are preferred, but care should be taken when wading along this shore, especially when it is flooded. Holes in the bog or submerged hummocks of peat can make footing treacherous, but this should not be a deterrent from slowly and carefully plugging the area.

While most anglers have their favorite lures for taking school bass, the preferred type of lure for this area are the four or five inch Rebel type swimming plugs, while those proficient in the use of bucktails and whiptails also achieve success. RedFins, Rebels, Rapalas, Hellcats or MirrO-Lure floaters, either in the solid body or broken-back models are ideal for working along the edges of the bog. Most enjoyment can be had when using light one-handed spinning rods and reels comparable to the Penn 716 spooled with a good quality six or eight pound test line.

Earlier in this article I mentioned that high water and little wind are essential to good bass fishing in this bay. There is a third natural element needed to ensure success and that is darkness. When high tide occurs a few hours after sunset on a balmy April night, the numbers of anglers lining the parkway shore is indicative of the amount of bass this area is producing. The absence of fishermen does not necessarily mean there are no fish, for plug casters often prefer the later tides when there is minimal activity. Flashing lights and careless splashing tend to drive the timid bass off the beach into the safety of the deeper channels. This is a major reason why there is little conflict between bait fishermen and plug casters.

Whichever technique one chooses, there is ample opportunity to pursue your favorite sport here. If catching striped bass is a difficult feat, then Little Neck Bay offers an excellent chance to sharpen your skills at a time when most of the waters surrounding Long Island have yet to see their first striped bass.

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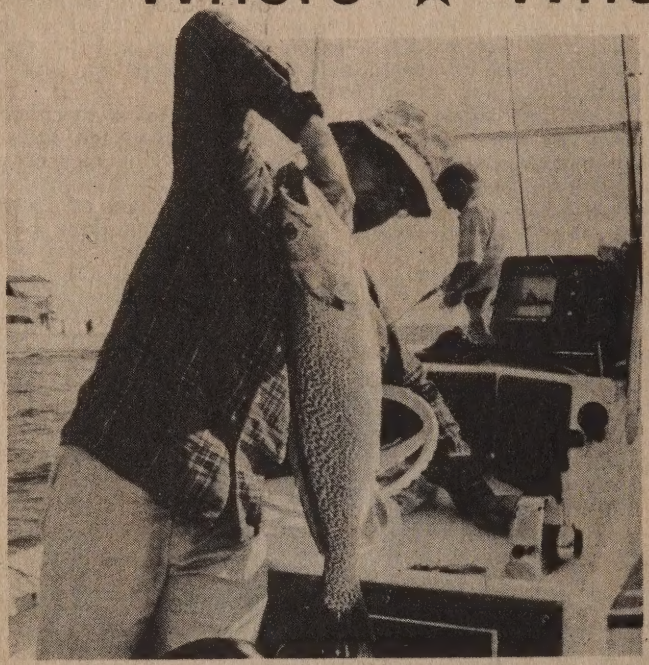

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THE ESSENCE OF CHUM

by Salvatore Agliano

Chum, or the lack of it, can greatly affect your score, particularly where flounder are concerned.

Picture this: Two skiffs merely feet apart are anchored over prime flounder ground. Each skiff fisherman is using the same bait—blood worms and skimmer clams. Their fishing techniques remarkably similar. Yet one angler has a boat-load of fish; the other has none. Why? Simple! The fellow with fish is chumming; the other is not!

All too often the difference between catching and not catching rests solely upon the use of chum. This seems especially true when flounder fishing. And it is the wise fisherman who, in addition to bait, takes something extra along as chum.

Chumming is the method by which a visual and aromatic substance is introduced into the water in an effort to attract fish to a baited hook. Too little chum and the effect is not achieved; too much and you are actually feeding the fish, whereby your baited hook is in direct competition with the chum.

Some fellows scatter chum loosely around the boat or from the pier they are fishing. This method will no doubt attract fish, but I prefer to use a chum pot or similar container. The pot is filled with chum and lowered over the side. Soon a steady stream of juices and minute particles begin to escape—just enough to attract any fish that might be in the area. Frequent jerking on the pot's line will stimulate the flow. If fish are nearby, they will quickly pick up the scent and follow it to its source.

At this point, their appetites are whetted, but not necessarily appeased, for when the fish reach the chum pot they are unable to get at the meal trapped within. They try hard, even sucking on the wire mesh of the pot. Then they spot something worthy of their efforts and seize the baited hook. The action has begun! The chum is working!

Bank mussels seem to be the most popular chum for flounder. Preparing them for the pot is a simple enough task and worth the effort. I tap each mussel, just enough to crack the shell before placing it into the chum pot. I would, however, avoid crushing mussels with the butt end of a gaff or whatever, as some fellows do. Doing so tends to squeeze out most of the essential juices before the pot is lowered into position.

Skimmer clam is an equally effective flounder chum. It can be prepared much the same as mussels. Quite often I stuff the pot with a combination of both cracked mussels and clams.

Corn chum has gained widespread popularity as of late. But I am one who has never been too enthusiastic about using it. With the consistency of corn being what it is, I find it washes out too quickly and unless

(Continued on next page.)

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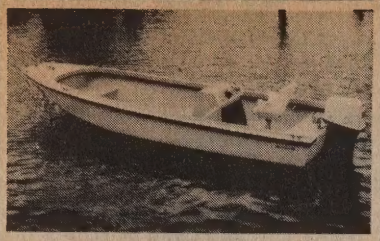

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massive amounts are regularly added to the chum pot, the use of corn chum rapidly loses its effectiveness.

The same can be said for boiled rice, which is more of a visual than aromatic attraction. Both corn and rice, however, do work well when scattered in calm, shallow waters. Anywhere else would not be practical, for the chum will rapidly disperse in the current long before it reaches bottom, where it would do the most good. I find both corn and rice are best used as "sweeteners" to a chum pot already stuffed with more potent substances.

Ground bunker could easily qualify as a potent flounder chum. However, it, too, will rapidly wash out in a short time. But not to worry! By simply freezing bunker chum in milk cartons, you can overcome that problem. Then when it is time to go fishing, just make several slashes in the frozen bunker-filled carton, slip it in the chum pot and lower away. Once the bunker begins to thaw it will ooze into the current for hours.

It was this method of chumming that prompted me to develop what I consider to be a most superior frozen flounder chum. It is a homemade concoction of stale bread and cat food. And believe it or not, it really works!

Of course, convincing my wife of this was another matter. She wasn't too overjoyed about sharing half of our freezer space with a season's supply of homemade chum, but she finally agreed. The prospect of obtaining plenty of fresh flounder fillets without dipping into her food budget was a great inducement.

My cost in preparing the chum was relatively low. The only purchase I needed to make was for several 16 ounce cans of seafood variety cat food. The bread cost nothing. All I did was save the heels from loaves of sliced white bread (you know, the end parts nobody wants). When a sufficient supply was accumulated, I was ready to mix up a batch of homemade chum.

Using a large mixing vessel, I combine equal amounts of bread and cat food, thoroughly mixing until it took on the form of turkey stuffing. The addition of a little water was necessary to achieve the desired consistency.

I spooned the mixture into several quart-sized milk cartons, filling them only three-quarters of the way. The cartons were then placed into the freezer until I was ready to go fishing.

The first time I used this homemade chum I had been pier fishing in Mill Basin. It took about half an hour before the chum started to attract fish. But after that, I had my hands full! I must have hooked into over a hundred fish that day. Half of the flatties taken were too small and were promptly returned; but flounder were not all I caught that day.

I took 18 blackfish from this spot that had never before produced them in such numbers. It seemed even the wary blackfish responded to the enticing aroma of chum and were drawn from a nearby wreck to the chum pot.

Although the conventional store-bought chum pot is the most common method to dispense chum, there are alternatives that work just as well. An onion bag weighted down with stones or scrap iron is equally as effective. Some enterprising fishermen even construct make-shift chum pots from odds and ends found around the house.

One such worthwhile contraption can be made from a wide mouth plastic mayonnaise gallon. Select one with a plastic screw-on top. It is best to avoid those made of metal. They rust out in short order, especially under prolonged exposure to salt water.

The only tool you need is an electric drill with a quarter-inch bit. Beginning about an inch above the base of the gallon and working upward in a straight line, drill a row of holes half an inch apart. Stop just below the neck of the gallon. Continue drilling rows of holes until completely around. Alternate the position of the rows a quarter of an inch up or down from the preceding row. This will produce a staggering sequence of holes from one row to the next. Keep the rows half an inch apart.

The next step is to secure something to the gallon to which the chum line can be tied. A piece of insulated electrical wire would do well. Run one end of the wire through one of the uppermost holes, pass it from the inside to and through another hole on the opposite side. Bring the two ends of the wire over the gallon and tie in a double overhand knot. Your chum pot is complete!

To use the pot, line the bottom with enough weight to ensure its descent. Several heavy sinkers, scrap metal or stones will do the job. Fill the pot with chum, screw on the top, tie in your line and lower away. Check and see if your make-shift chum pot doesn't attract flounder as well as any of the store-bought varieties.

So far, most of what I have said about chum was directed primarily at flounder fishing. But that is not to say that chum is not as effective while fishing for other species. Perish the thought!

Bluefish are most receptive to chum, although the use of a chum pot is generally unheard of. Instead, chum of a soup-like consistency is ladled over the side of an anchored or drifting boat. The effect produced is known as a chum slick—a flowing stream of oils and tiny bits of fish flesh that ride in the current a great distance behind the boat. Ground bunker is most commonly used for this method of chumming.

Of course, there are some unpleasantries involved. In order to ensure a proper chum slick, the "chummer" must keep a constant vigil as to the flow of the slick. The flow must be consistent so as not to interrupt the stream. Many times we

become so involved in the actual fishing that we lighten up on the chum. Then it's goodbye to the fish and we have to start all over again. The bunker chum must be watered down with an equal amount of sea water so as not to introduce too much bulk into the surrounding waters.

Chumming this way is a messy job and quite often the soupy mixture is splattered about the deck and sides of the boat. In hot weather bunker takes on a most overwhelming aroma—I guess that's why it works so well in attracting fish.

For years, I believed this discomfort had to be endured for there appeared to be no other way to dispense chum when still-fishing for bluefish. Then one day while mating aboard Captain Paul Luisi's charter boat, the Sailfin, I learned of a clean and efficient method that took the drudgery and offensiveness out of bunker chumming for blues.

We had taken on four old-time fishermen that day. We sailed south to a spot near Seabright, New Jersey and set the anchor. As I climbed off the forward deck and was about to start the chum slick going, I was shocked to see one of the old-timers pouring the entire tub of ground bunker chum into a burlap sack.

"Hey, what are you doing?" I shouted.

The old-timer just lifted his finger to his lips as if to say: "Shut up and watch! Maybe you'll learn something!"

So I remained silent as he brought the opening of the sack together and secured it with a short length of heavy line. He then tied the other end of the line to the midship cleat and pitched the sack into the water. The sack floated astern until the short length of rope prevented it from traveling any farther. There it lay between midship and the stern bobbing with the movement of the tide. Soon the chum was flowing through the sack of its own accord and at just the right consistency. No mess, no bother, no smell of bunker! A chum slick was created, and I did not need to lift a ladle or concern myself with the strength or weakness of the flow.

With the burden of my labors lightened, I was able to devote my time to gaffing the back-breaking haul of bluefish those four old-timers wrestled to the boat that day.

Porgies are another species that respond well to chum. On one occasion it was in a most unusual manner.

That day I had been introducing my youngest son, Paulie, to the finer points of snapper fishing. With cane poles, floats, Bridgeport hooks and several boxes of snapper spearing, we were dunking our lines in about 12 feet of water. The action left much to be desired. I emptied half a dozen cans of cat food into a small bucket that was filled with sea water, and occasionally I would pour some of this mixture into the water where we were fishing. In minutes we were invaded by schools of spearing. But as the chum disappeared so, too, did the tiny baitfish. I started to chum a little heavier and more consistently. Shortly the spearing reappeared and as long as I kept the chum flowing, they remained.

Then, without notice, snappers moved in and began attacking the feeding spearing as well as our baited hooks. We were filling up on snappers when suddenly Paulie's rig was hit so hard he had difficulty in keeping the pole from bending under the pier. I anxiously watched as he finally landed the fish—it was a porgy!

I peered into the shallow water beneath us and could actually see porgies darting from the bottom to snatch little pieces of cat food I had chummed.

I increased the rate of chum and between Paulie and I, we loaded up on the feisty little battlers. And again, the difference between catching fish and not, in this instance porgies, was made possible by chumming.

Chum has always been to me as its name implies: chum—friend, buddy. For as a true friend rushes to your aid in time of need, so, too, will chum invariably come to the rescue. Whether it be mussels or skimmers, corn or rice, ground bunker or a home-made concoction and whether you use a store-bought chum pot, make-shift contraption, a burlap sack or an old onion bag, you will surely improve your odds at catching fish—for that is "THE ESSENCE OF CHUM!"

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FLOUNDER TIPS

by Pete Barrett

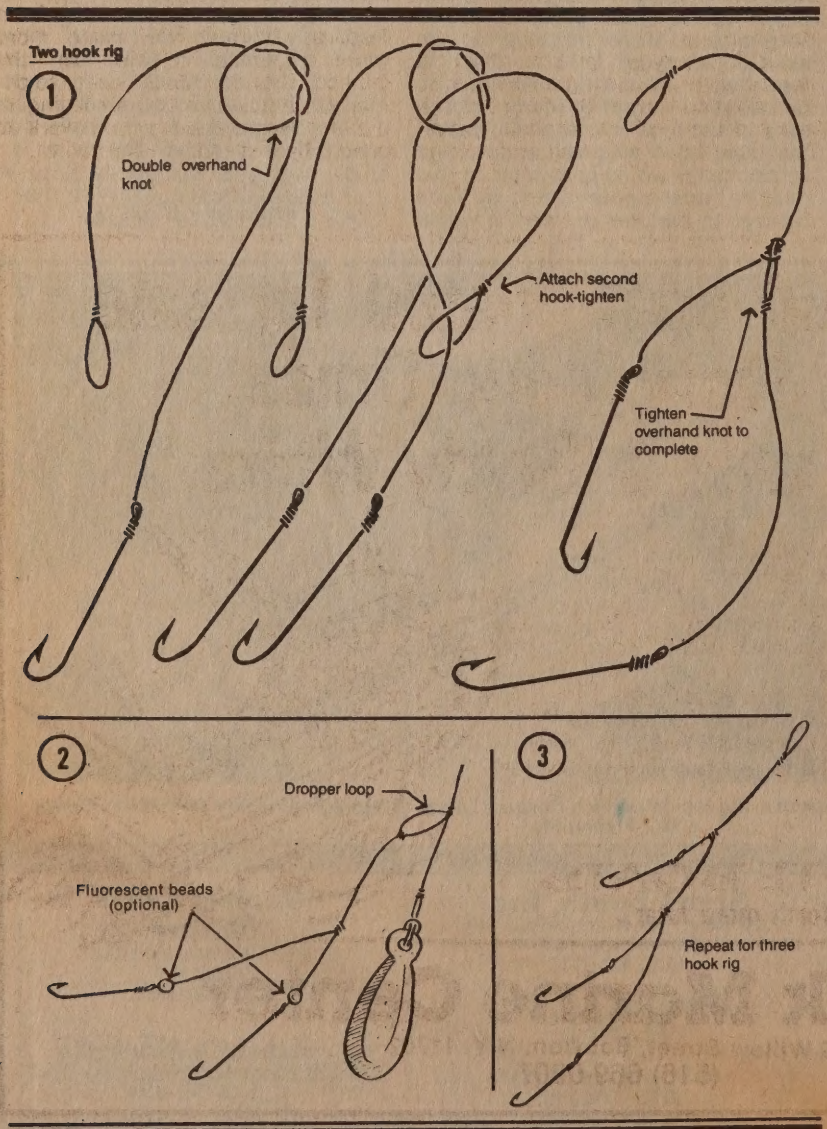
A quartet of successful flounder pounders share their hard earned expertise.

"It's the beads," said Fred Turner as he described his favorite flounder rigs to me at a sport show a few weeks ago. The amount of time he had spent compiling data on his fishing for winter flounder was astounding only in that most people look at the flounder as a simple fish to catch—who keeps such a data bank of information on flatfish?

Well, Fred does. And just like his fanatical trout fishing counterparts or avid canyon runners, he keeps a detailed log book to tell him what works the best for his kind of fishing.

Fred and his friends often wondered about the effect of beads, or the lack of beads, did to their flounder catches. Were beads a sure way to add to the catch or did they hinder the catch? If they did help the catch, which colors were better?

They figured the only way to get the answers to these questions was to keep records. Over a period of three years, which included results from New Jersey to Quincy, they feel they got their answers.



To keep things equal, if one of his crew began to catch well on any given day with a particular rig, that rig was either matched by a fishing buddy or the buddy who was not catching as well was given the rig and Fred would take the unlucky rig.

Sometimes it was just a matter of "feeling" the fish—the rig itself performing better or worse depending on who was actually fishing with it. For instance, Fred relates one day when a yellow-beaded rig was catching more fish than a rig with no beads. When the rigs were switched from one angler to another, the man who was catching better with the yellow rig still caught better even though he now was fishing with a rig with no beads.

It's obvious, then, that the angler himself plays a big role in catching the fish. If you don't have the "feel" for flounder fishing, you still may not catch a whole lot of fish just because you use yellow beaded rigs, red beaded rigs or no beads at all!

Fred's data did show, however, that the use of beads did add to the catches. Fred averages 15 days of flounder fishing each season, catching approximately 700 flounder each year, the actual yearly totals going slightly higher or lower depending on the weather and the actual number of fishing days. Of that average yearly catch, about two-thirds were caught with yellow beaded rigs, the remaining one-third with red or non-beaded rigs.

Says John, "After the second year we began to see that most of the fish were being caught on the rigs with yellow beads, so naturally we all switched over to yellow beads on all the rigs. There still were some days when we caught better with no beads at all on the rigs or with red beads on the rigs. I bring along all three kinds so I'm certain to have the right rig and have it ready."

Will Fred's yellow beaded rigs work for you? Only you can answer that. He does give us some food for thought and you can bet my flounder fishing this year will see me trying yellow beads on at least one rig.

Stan DeAngelis had a suggestion for those boaters who don't care for anchoring. He doesn't have a wash down at his marina until the end of April, so hauling even small anchors used for flounder fishing creates a muddy mess in his boat that he can't clean up very easily. His solution to clean anchoring and faster anchoring

was to use a small rubber garbage can. In it, he places his two anchors and the anchor lines.

Stan prefers the grappling style anchor because he feels it holds better in the soft muddy bottoms. Each anchor is tied to a line of about 25 feet in length—just the right length for John's 22 Grady White. He says, "Anchoring is easy now. I watch the recorder to get myself in position at the edge of the channel or hole, come up on the top of the shallow water and then toss out the bow anchor. I let the current swing me so the stern is in the right position, then toss out the stern anchor. Once both anchor lines are snubbed up on cleats, the fishing is easy. I can shift my position by hauling in on one anchor while my son slacks off on the other anchor."

According to Stan this simple double anchor system works well for him because it makes everything so easy. There's no mess of black mud on the deck or in the anchor locker, the anchors are easily carried in the rubber can to be washed later and since the system is so easy he uses the double anchor all the time.

"I used to get so mad at wrecking the boat that I wouldn't go flounder fishing at all, or I'd use only one anchor and then I didn't catch very well. Don Kamienski convinced me to use the two anchor approach; the rubber can made it easy. My catches have improved enormously."

Rich Williams' idea for stirring up the bottom brings more flounder to his baits and is easier to use than a plumber's helper plunger. He uses a downrigger ball attached to a 25 foot length of nylon line.

When he wants to stir up the bottom, he tosses the 10 pound weight up-current from his baits, then drags the ball back to the boat, stirring up the muddy bottom dislodging small worms, shells and other gourmet delicacies that lure winter flounder to his own baited hooks.

Stirring up the bottom has been a well known way to attract more flounder to baited hooks, but few flounder fishermen practice the art(?). Rich said, "The plunger worked when I used it, but it only worked for the area right under the boat. With the ball I can get good position up from my rigs and as the ball digs into the mud it digs up a small chum slick. It seems to work for me."

Dick Sweeney has a unique approach to the end of the tide times when the current is slow. "Everyone always says to anchor up while you fish for flounder, but at the end of the tide when the current just about disappears, I haul the anchor and start to drift fish."

Dick's theory is that while the tide is moving it is washing small bits of food downcurrent to the flounder. "I can see them in real shallow water. They face into the current and wait to jump on food as it floats by them. They don't have to move at all when the current is like the waiter bringing a seven course meal right to their dinner table!"

"When the current stops, it's another matter. A lot of people just accept it that at the end of the tide the fish stop biting, but I believe that if you drift you can still catch a few more fish. I know it works for me."

Dick cautions, "Don't start drifting too early in the tide. There must only be a very slow motion to the drift so the baits are dragged by the fish in a life-like manner. I don't believe that flounder will hit a fast moving bait."

He also suggests that you watch out for other boaters who are still anchored. "Nothing ticks off the rest of the flounder fishermen faster than some fool drifting into them. I drift when I'm alone or when the drift is away from the other boats."

"Drifting only works when you are drifting into good flounder water. I wouldn't spend time drifting over a long flat at the end of a dropping tide, but short drifts across a channel or along the side of a deep channel or deep hole can be productive."

So, there you have it: four tips from readers who feel they catch more winter flounder because of the methods they use. Each is easy to do, they are innovative and according to the men who use them, they work as proved by more fish in the cooler.

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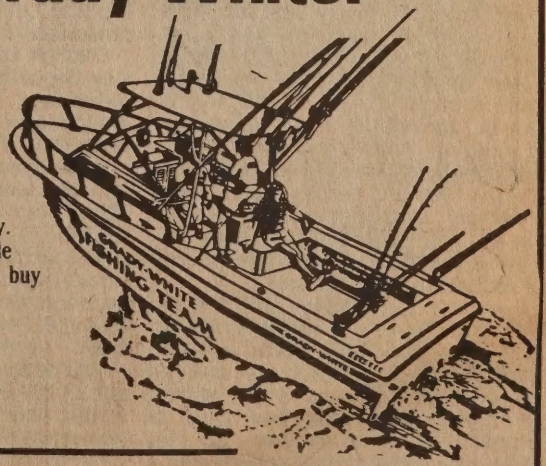
*Source: New York Times, February 19, 1984



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A DAY OF TRAGEDY REVISITED

by Matt Ahern

I first wrote this story over five years ago. At the time it aroused a great deal of interest and my mail load soared. I had no intention of repeating it—until I received a letter from Bob Manning of Farmingdale. Bob wrote that while he enjoys all my Old-Timer articles, most of the stories appear to be happy-go-lucky—even considering most happenings occurred during the Great Depression. "Of all the years you've spent party boat fishing," Bob wrote, "weren't there times when things became a bit hectic? Even tragic, maybe?"

Yes, indeed, Bob, for surely one does not fish aboard party boats for well over a half-century and fail to come away unscathed in some manner. And when you and your fellow readers have finished reading "A Day of Tragedy," you'll know exactly what I mean.

I began the story thusly:

Sunday. May 3, 1936. Time: approximately 2PM. Scene: the Subway Grounds, south of Ambrose Lightship. Add a dozen or so small fishing boats anchored in dense fog. Climax: a day that ended in death, destruction, and misery. A day that ended with chilling and haunting memories, never to be erased in my lifetime.

Nearly 48 years have passed since this witnessing of the smashing and grinding to oblivion of the popular Sheepshead Bay party boat MJR III, yet the memory remains so vivid it seems like yesterday. For years dream repetitions of the horrifying scene brought me full awake in my bed, but fortunately time has worked its soothing miracle and these nightmares have become less frequent. But never a May 3rd passes that I don't remember, stop whatever I'm doing, and say a silent prayer for those unfortunate fishermen who never returned to their loved ones.

I was one of the mates on the Rose R II out of Canarsie at the time and up until then fog had never unduly impressed me. There was always danger involved if you didn't watch your step, of course; but with a skipper like Dick Persson at the wheel, you didn't much concern yourself. I had seen him perform feats of pure legerdemain on fog-shrouded days, slowly picking his way from buoy to buoy, never missing, always bringing them up dead center, fine on the bow. (There was no radar or other electronics aids those days.) Who cared how thick the fog, or how thick the snow.

Who worried about inclement weather? It took a roaring gale to stop a guy from fishing those days. If the skippers were willing to leave, there were fishermen willing to take their chances. Get those fish and hang the weather.

So it was not surprising to see that even a week's duration of fog had not cut down the amount of fishermen aboard that fateful day. We had about 45; Captain Jack of the Pioneer II had a like amount, and the Tambo II perhaps a few less. Off we went to wherever each skipper thought fishing was best, fog horns sounding at prescribed intervals.

"A day that ended with chilling and haunting memories, never to be erased in my lifetime."

Captain Dick had selected the Subway Grounds and we arrived without difficulty, whereupon we nested among several boats from Sheepshead Bay. Though these boats were anchored no more than one or two hundred feet from us, they were invisible; and because of the queer acoustics of fog, we could plainly hear voices about us laughing and joking throughout the morning, and on occasion someone calling for the gaff as some lucky fisherman hooked into a cod or hake.

And so the peaceful day went—until about one o'clock, when from the south and west came the heavy whooping of a large ship's fog horn. Liner or freighter, for sure, cautiously plodding along, no doubt trying to get a fix on the Ambrose Lightship. But I remember thinking—what is she doing to the south and west? Then I recalled the old red Scotland Lightship. Sure, that was it. She was trying to pick up Scotland. No doubt some ship returning from her South American run. Everything okay.

Or was it...?

As the minutes passed, the fog horn became progressively louder; but now it came from the south and east—or did it? Were there two ships? Or was it a trick of the fog?

By now even the novice fishermen on board were aware possible danger existed. I could no longer hear the happy-go-lucky banter of close-by fishermen. In its place came the repeated, now anxious, bell-ringing of ships at anchor. I placed my rod aside as Captain Dick motioned for his mates to get up on the bow. He cautioned our passengers to remain silent, to make no sound.

We stood on the bow. We strained our ears; we listened. We willed our eyes to pierce the fog, but except for the gentle lapping of the sea against the Rose R's hull and the continuous ding-ding of the warning bells about us, nothing was seen or heard. Where was it? That ship was certainly out there. But where?

Then someone said: "I hear something."

Lead-footed, anxious seconds passed. Then I heard it, too. The chonking of a propeller, the slushing sound of a bow wave being pushed forward under tremendous pressure. Then the errant ship's horn blasted out a mighty roar. I could feel the sound's vibrations strike. The poor little Rose R II shivered under the blast. I quickly looked to port from whence the sound had come.

And there it was!

The force of the ship's approach had opened a hole in the fog. A bright sun streamed through as if begging forgiveness for something it couldn't help. I looked straight up—not out. The immense black bow filled all the area my eyes could take in. The white bridge glared in the sunlight. White-capped ship's officers attired in brass-buttoned blue jackets scurried back and forth, evidently giving emergency orders to the engine room.

Nearby someone cried out "Jesus Christ!" It wasn't meant to be blasphemy—of that I'm sure. It was pure heart-rending agony.

I don't know if those officers saw us first, or if the huge ship was already making a swing away, but she skirted past, rocking us mightily with her bow wave. And there directly in her path lay the anchored MJR III.

Everyone's luck had run out.

I saw what occured as plainly as you can see the words on this page.

An instant before she was struck, every man aboard the MJR III gave out one final shout, completely in unison, as if from one gigantic throat: "Oh-h-h!" Then came the sound I can never forget: the slashing of ripping metal on splintering wood. That sound has stayed with me all these long years. If you have ever mashed a wood crate with your foot, you will recall the sound. Now magnify it a thousand-fold.

The huge ship seemed only to push the MJR aside, and I remember saying to myself (damned fool that I was), "Why she only pushed her aside." There was immediate silence as the ship continued on.

Again we were covered with that chill, gray blanket of fog.

And then all hell broke loose as the huge ship sent out blast after blast from her horn. As each party boat recovered from the shock, she added her horn to the din.

"Get the hook up, boys!" Captain Dick shouted from the wheelhouse. "Get the hook up!"

In those days few party boats, except large ones like the steam yachts Au Revoir and Sylph, had an anchor winch on the bow. All our anchor raising was done by brawn and muscle. We freed the hook in record time, but it became snagged on some obstruction 10 or 15 feet above bottom. To this day I don't know what this obstruction was, but someone has since told me that the old Atlantic cable runs through this area. Perhaps.

But anyway, we did work it free just at the same time we made the decision to cut. We picked our way slowly among the converging party boats. (In the confusion, the Evelyn of Sheepshead Bay stove in our starboard bow rail.) We immediately began to see wreckage in the form of ripped-out timbers, splintered planking, and torn-out buoyancy tanks. Then came the victims. Most were dazed, some were swimming, some clutching wreckage, and unfortunately some were in the process of drowning.

I spotted a circular life preserver and gaffed it aboard. "S.S. Angelina—Bull Line" was stenciled in black letters against a snow-white background. Someone aboard her had tossed it overboard in a desperate effort to help. (Incidentally, the mate aboard the ill-fated MJR watched me gaff the life-ring; and when I first wrote this story in 1979, he got in touch with me. Will wonders never cease!)

Because we had lost precious time with the fouled anchor, most of the shipwrecked passengers were already removed from the water by the half-dozen or so party boats that had reached the area before us. We did lift about ten half-drowned victims aboard the Rose R II, and some were in not too good a shape.

In the midst of this hell, the Angelina returned to the scene, her reversing engine jockeying for position, but there was nothing she could do, as by that time all rescue work had been accomplished; she continued on to New York Harbor. It was evident she had used her wireless, for we could hear low-flying planes above the fog; but we could neither see them, nor they us.

The Angelina had knifed through the MJR III just aft of the wheelhouse and the stricken ship lay in two sections. The stern section had the weight of the diesel engine and I watched it sink, first slowly revolving several times before going down. One second it was there, and the next it was gone. If you have ever fished the Subway Wreck, this is it.

One of our mates (I no longer recall who) got on board the floating bow section, cut loose the anchor, and tossed us the MJR's extra manila cable. We made it fast to our stern and attempted to tow the wreck.

But it was hopeless. The stern of the stricken ship, ripped completely open, was at the mercy of the swells making up from the south. She began to yaw widely; first to starboard, then to port—back and forth, back and forth, settling deeper and deeper into the sea. Soon she began to tell on us, and our stern began to drag down and our bow to rise. The swells began to break over our stern decking. The towing cable was strained so tight, I could see it quiver, and with each quiver beads of water shot from it as the seas brought more pressure to bear.

"Axe it, boys!" Dick shouted from the wheelhouse. "Axe it! If she goes, she'll take us with her!"

One solid blow was all it took, and that hawser parted with the crack of a rifle shot. We circled the wreckage several times and watched for bodies to wash out, but there were none. Slowly the MJR settled until only the top of her wheelhouse was above water. And there she stayed, her air tanks doing their job.

There were no ship-to-shore phones those days. Nothing. And as we came abreast of the old Barren Island piers in Jamaica Bay, we called to several fishermen to have an ambulance meet us at the Canarsie shore. When we arrived a half-hour later, we had all the medical aid we needed.

What was left of the MJR III didn't sink that day or that night, but I understand the Coast Guard located the drifting hulk the next day and sent it to the bottom with a charge of dynamite. There was absolutely no hope of saving the bow section. All the proud fish-catching MJR III had become was a menace to navigation.

Fortunately, such a disaster today is hardly likely. If radar had been available in those days, the MJR III would never have ended its fishing career in so violent a manner. I guess one might say that while the fishing may have been good in the old days, there are things today which are much better.

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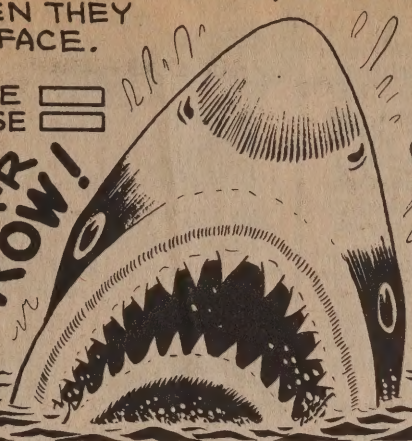
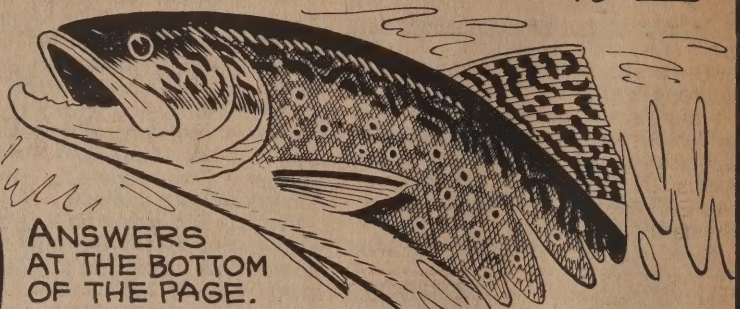
THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

(1) SHARKS, AS PORTRAYED IN THE MOVIE "JAWS", CAN ROAR WHEN THEY SURFACE.

TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐



(2) BROOK TROUT FEED MOST ACTIVELY WHEN THE WATER TEMPERATURE IS ABOUT 48° ☐ 58° ☐ 68° ☐ 78° ☐



ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

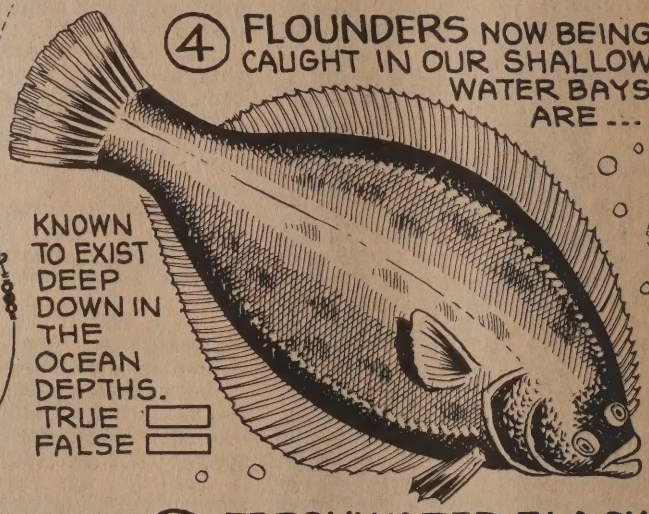
BY FRED GUARDINEER

(3) MOST SUCKERS ARE CAUGHT AS THEY PREPARE FOR THEIR SPAWNING RUN IN...

EARLY SPRING ☐
MID SUMMER ☐
EARLY AUTUMN ☐

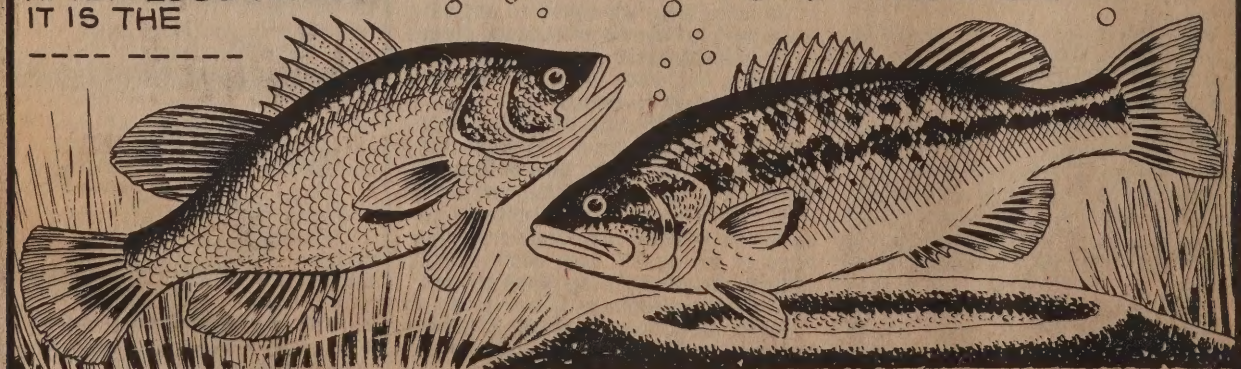
(4) FLOUNDERS NOW BEING CAUGHT IN OUR SHALLOW WATER BAYS ARE...

KNOWN TO EXIST DEEP DOWN IN THE OCEAN DEPTHS.
TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐



(5) THIS FISH, NATIVE TO AFRICA AND REACHING 300 LBS., WAS REVERED BY THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS, MUMMIFIED BY THEM AND FOUND IN GOOD CONDITION AFTER 2500 YEARS.
IT IS THE
---- -----

(6) FRESHWATER BLACK BASS ALL SPAWN IN ABOUT THE SAME SHALLOW DEPTHS.
TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐



1-FALSE. SHARKS CANNOT MAKE SOUNDS. THE ROARS IN "JAWS" WERE ADDED FOR EFFECT. 2-58 DEGREES. 3-EARLY SPRING. 4-TRUE. BAY FLOUNDERS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN OCEAN DEPTHS OF AT LEAST 400 FT. 5-NILE PERCH. 6-FALSE. STUDIES BY THE U.S. FISH & W. SERVICE FOUND THESE DIFFERENT AVERAGE SPAWNING DEPTHS: LARGEMOUTH 4.9 FT., SMALLMOUTH BASS 9.1 FT., AND SPOTTED BASS AT 8.8 FEET.

East End REPORT

with Capt. John DeMaio

The prevailing east winds continue to keep these waters well chilled. Neither flounder or cod have been up to par. The weekend was a washout, due to another heavy dose of east winds. Those wishing to contribute to the East End Report can call me on Sundays until 9PM at 668-5130.

MONTAUK

Capt. Chuck Malison of the charter boat **Joy Sea** reported catching 40 cod up to 35 pounds for the Dave Braun party on Tuesday. On Friday Art Longworth and friends took 17 cod up to 45 pounds. Most of the action was on bait. A few fish were jigged.

My best fishing on the **Vivienne** came on Thursday and Friday. Thursday's catch was 31 cod to 30 pounds and 3 hake up to 30 pounds. On Friday 4 anglers took 49 cod up to 28 pounds. Average size cod produced a total catch of 500 pounds.

Paul Sanojedney headed a 6 man charter aboard the **Julie III** on Saturday. Strong east winds restricted fishing to the harbor where the group put away 84 flounder from 3/4 to 2 lbs. 1 oz.

Aboard the **King Wayne** on Monday, a party headed by John Fulfree returned from Cartwright with 58 cod to 25 lbs. On Friday, Walter Lojewski group had 37 cod up to 20 lbs. along with a few blacks to 5 lbs.

Captain Mike Albronda of the charter boat **Montauk** said that fishing has been generally slow although he did manage one good day out of the week. Tuesday's fishing at Cartwright resulted in 58 cod averaging 10 yo 15 lbs. Al Atkins had the pool winner, a 48 lber. All the action was on bait.

The Sell party with 60 of 78 cod and two pollock taken earlier this month aboard the Montauk charter boat, "Bluefin IV."

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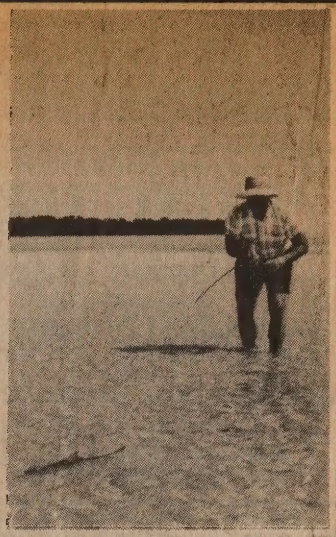
Fishing the Flats

By Mark Sosin and Lefty Kreh



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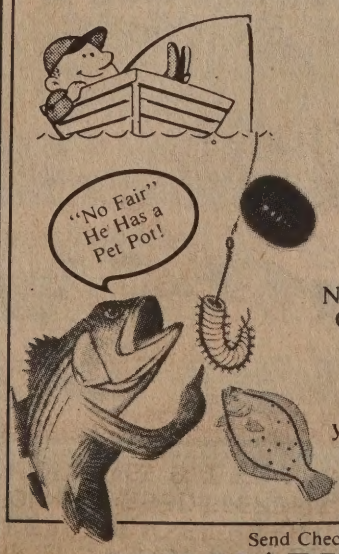

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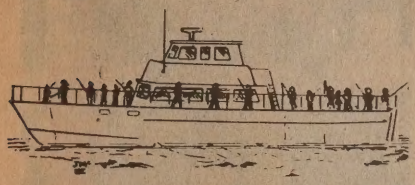
SOUTH FORK

Speck's Bait and Tackle told of some good flounder action in Three Mile Harbor. Bill Kelsey, Tom Wagner and Bob Flynn managed 96 flounder off the old fishing station. The flounder went to 2 pounds.

Capt. Artie Lach of the open boat **Wilhelric II** said he had a slow pick all day. Wednesday was best. Everyone calling in claimed we need warm days and warmer water to perk up the fishing.



South Shore REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

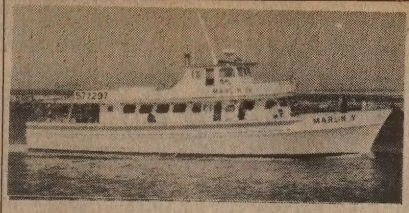
The weather again wreaked havoc on the fishing front. Heavy rains and stiff east winds made flounder fishing in these parts a major undertaking at best and an impossibility for most.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

Gary Grunseich of **Silly Lily Fishing Station in East Moriches** labelled the weekend a washout. Fishing had been

Keith, Rick and Paul with a trio of school tuna taken last fall at Montauk on diamond jigs. They fished aboard the charter boat, "Nostalgia II."

MONTAUK POINT



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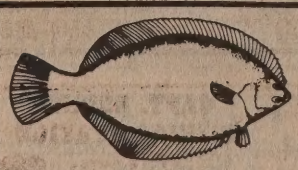
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Ricky Yonkers had this 300 lb. tuna along with a 205 lb. mako on a trip aboard the Montauk based "Adios" last summer.

good during the week, however, particularly for those who waited out the afternoon tide. Gary said that the best action has been three hours before and after high water from buoy 42 inshore to Havens Point on the flats. The fish are all falling into the 1 to 2½ lb. range and chumming is a big plus. On Tuesday, George Gorth, Al Monaco and their friend John returned to the station with 62 big flatties up to 2½ lbs.

Over at **Sea Tuck Cove Fishing Station in Eastport**, Jeff Frey said that the general picture had been good although the weekend was chalked up as a loss due to the weather. He has been sending his boats to the buoy 44-46 area where some have been returning with up to 70 flatties in the 1 to 1½ lb. class. Heavy chumming has been a key, with either mussel or corn chum being effective. Sand worms or clams have both been effective in the bait department. Jeff reported the best action in this area on incoming tide.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Fishing reports were particularly difficult to come by in these parts, which came as no surprise due to the current weather picture. Some of the tackle shops even decided to keep their doors closed on Monday as the weekend deluge carried over into the early part of the week.

Paul Graniello of **J&J Tackle in Patchogue** said that if it wasn't for trout fishermen this past week he could have locked up and gone home. Swan, West and East Lakes all continued to produce good numbers of 9 to 11 inch trout along with occasional

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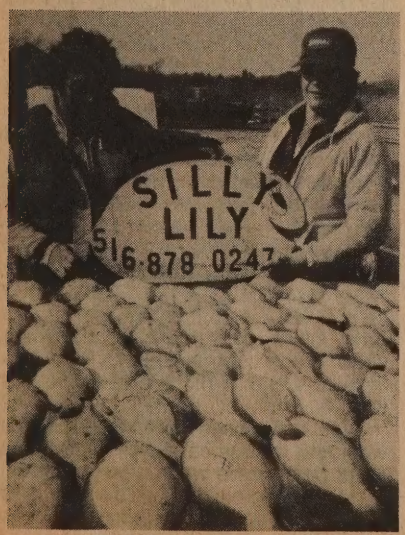

Paul Shrader and Steve Miyares with a fine catch of Moriches Bay flatties made on April 3rd while fishing out of Silly Lily Fishing Station in E. Moriches.

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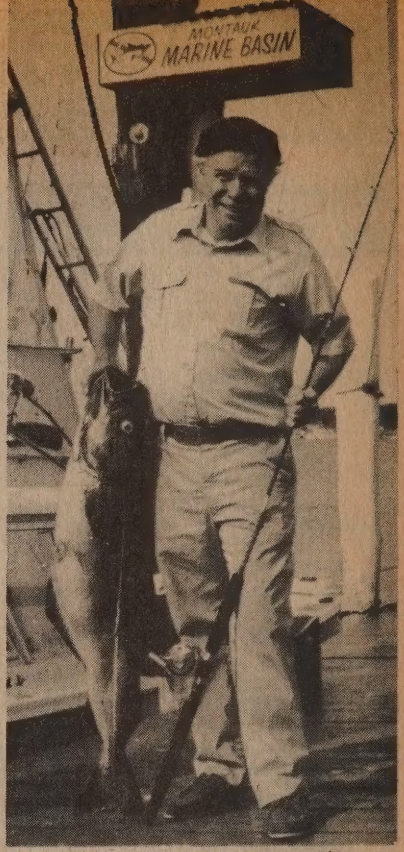

Leon Graywacz with a 32.8 lb. pollock taken at Block Island last spring. It was weighed at Montauk Marine Basin.

12 to 14 inch holdovers. Small nymphs and wet flies, small spinners and spoons have all been taking their share of fish. Night crawlers seemed to be accounting for most of the holdovers. Paul did tell of one nice catch of flounder made at buoy 27 in Moriches Bay during the week but most flounde fishermen were severely affected by the recent winds and heavy rain.

"From what we can tell flounder fishing has been pretty good as long as the weather cooperates." This from John "Rod" DiGiacomo of **J&R Sports Center in Oakdale.** The weekend was a washout, but there were some good flounder catches made during the week, north of Sailor's Haven and south of Heckscher. Trout have been getting a heavy play in Bubbles and Rattles with particularly good fishing in Connetquot State Park. Some big white perch being taken in the tidal reaches of the Connetquot along with an occasional big sea run trout.

Over at **Captree** open boat skippers did the best they could to combat the elements. Fortunately, there seemed to be plenty of fish in the bay and fishing has been good whenever the weatherman gives us a break.

Captain George Tweedy of the open boat **Capt. Scotty III** reported good fishing during the week with 20 to 30 fish per man catches the norm. Fish

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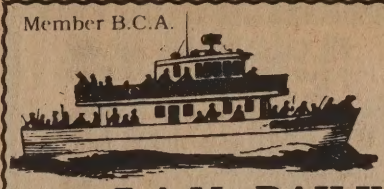

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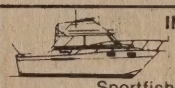

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were smaller this week with a good number of throwbacks now mixing in with the keepers. George worked the Heckscher park area and found his bet action during the flood on either worm or clams.

Captain Richie Leitch of the **Capt. Leitch IV** has been working the Sailors Haven area and catching decent numbers of mixed size fish. Most fares averaged 12 to 15 keepers, although some sharper anglers do considerably better. A lot of small fish beginning to mix in . The weekend was very tough as the east wind churned up the bottom pretty good. Richie expressed the hopes of many in wishing for a few days of calm and sunny weather.

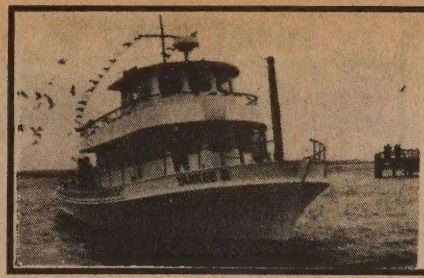
Aboard the **Capt Joseph II**, Capt. Charlie Kennedy reported pretty good actionj all week between Sailors Haven and Point O'Woods. He never did sail in Sunday's wind and rain and of Saturday's fishing, he reported that it got off to a good start but the fishing deteriorated along with the weather. Despite quitting by noon, Mike Chiusano put away 32 flatties. Bob Pace had 21 and Virginia Kilgore had 17. On Friday's trip, Warren Moore led the way with 29 fish. Earlier in the week, Warren returned wtih his son Doug and his wife. The trio racked up a score of 80 flounder. This was on Monday.

Captain C arl Passero of the **Jib VI** spoke of pretty good fishing from Monday through Friday in the vicinity of Sailors Haven. On Tuesday, Bob and Matt Stern of Queens finished the day with 50 fish between them. Friday was the best day of the week with 17 fares accounting for over 350 flatties. Saturday's fishing was a touch pick in stiff east winds.

Fred Austin of **Augie's Bait and Tackle in Babylon** reported a real quiet weekend due to the weather. T There was some pretty decent fishing during the week however. On Friday,

Claude Commisso, Ed Jarvis and Ed Burke teamed to take this 253 lb. mako at Montauk last October. Subscriber photo.

CAPTREE



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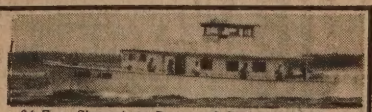

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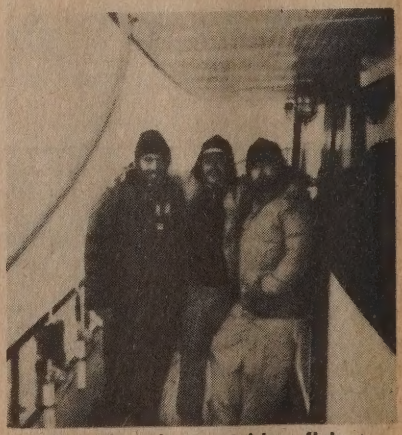
Jim Garraputo of the Old Babe stopped by the shop to show a catch of 50 flatties including a 2¼ lber. He fished in the vicinity of Snake Hill Channel.

The Babylon open boat **Miss Babylon** reported some good action in West Channel. Largest flattie in recent days was a 2½ lb. pool winner taken by Roland Wintertown.

Real quiet on the weekend reported Mike Andreanni of **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle**. He did speak of a few fair catches of big fish made in Snake Hill Channel on Friday but had little else in the way of flounder report. The only other activity for the week concered a few white perch being taken behind the local Times Square Store.

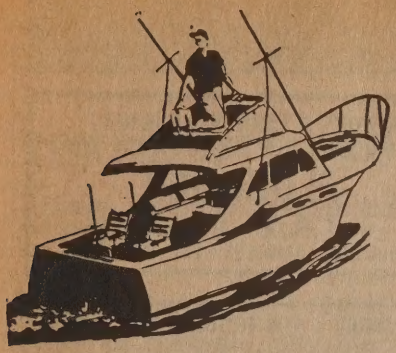
It was a catch of white perch that most impressed Ralph Angelillo of **Z-Crab Tackle** in Copiague on Saturday. Al Smith using shrimp for bait and chum worked a local creek to the tune of a coupie of dozen big white perch. The fish averaged 1 to 1½ lbs. and included in the catch were five over 2 lbs. on the shop scale. In the flounder department, Jim Braun aboard his 3 Sons sought shelter from the strong east winds in the State Channel near Fox Creek on Saturday. He and his crew finished up with over 100 flatties between a half and one lb. Local youngsters continue to take some flounder from sthe shore at Tanner Park. They also took some kingfish in the 1 lb. range this week on bloodworms.

George Combs of **Combs Bait and Tackle in Amityville** echoed a report similar to many in that the weather kept activity down to a minimum. Wednesday and Thursday however, did see some pretty fair catches of small flounder in the 1/2 to 3/4 lb. range made at Massapequa Cove, West Island and in the east/west channel south of Copiague. Worms and mussels work best and chum is



More than just catching fish— John DeBona and John and Robert Guiffo had to combat wind, rain and snow during a March flounder trip aboard the Captree based "Capt. Rod." The fishing was off, but the trio enjoyed the day just the same.

very important if you're looking to put together a decent score.



West End REPORT

with Stu Miller

Once again this area was visited by extensive rainfall, very cool weather and brisk winds which put a damper on the week's catches. However, there were a few days during the week when anglers could get out and did nicely on flounder which are definitely in residence.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

A call to **Lon Wanser's Bait and Tackle** gave us info regarding Charlie Keller and wife of Massapequa who had a very good catch of flatties at Squaw Island in the early part of the week with the top of the tide being best. Lon said that once the weather breaks, best areas to hit would be Massapequa Cove, Squaw Island and the first Wantagh with chumming essential in all areas.

A call from **Pop's Fishing Station** advised that the floundering during the early part of the week was good right through Wednesday, but then things stopped with the wind, cold and rain. John wished Happy Holidays to all.

Swinging over to the action out of Freeport, we hear from Captain Mike Danon of the **Capt. Lou Fleet** that on Monday Jack Reed had 46 flounder, and on Tuesday, wife Hazel Reed had 43. Thursday saw pals Vic Levinson and Herb Schwartz with 79 flatties between them. Catches were good through Wednesday until the rains came and slowed things down right through Sunday. Mike expects catches to pick up tremendously once the weather becomes normal. He sailed his first trip with the new boat Saturday and invites you all to come

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down on see the new vessel.

From Capt. Rich Kessinger of the **Starstream II** we learned of good codfishing on both the Tuesday and Thursday special offshore cod wreck trips. Pools both days were in the 40s and high hooks were 13 and 14 fish, respectively. Fish averaged 15 lbs. and catches averaged 6 to 10 fish a man.

Flounder were the target for the **Capt. Al** this week and the boat fished both the inlet and Squaw Island. Squaw held better sizes and quantities of fish and the skipper worked that area Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with good results. The boat has been out every day during the week and weekend, with fish everyday. The water is also warming up now, said Al.

Captain Dennis of the charter boat **Corsair** on Saturday fished the Edgewater, N.J. fire department, working Reynolds and the area just west of Jones Inlet for a fair catch. Reynolds was best. The day's fish ran from 1/2 to 1½ lbs. on mussel and worm. Lou Gotthold took high hook honors.

The word from the **Freeport Boatmen's Association** was that the **Super Spray II, Lady J III, Acme II, North Star** and **Corsair** had fair to good flounder fishing during this past week working Swift Creek, Garrets lead, Reynolds and Long Creek.

Down in Pt. Lookout, aboard the two trip a day **Capt. Bill** on Monday's AM trip Allen Schwartberg, Baldwin had 15 flounder, while in the PM, Skip Nunnenkamp of Amityville scored with 19. Tuesday saw Tom Birraidi of Hempstead with 31 flounder and George Bluen with a 2 lb. pool fish. On Wednesday Carmine Cesarano hoisted 14 flatties, while on Thursday Jim Page of Bayside was happy with 21 to 2 lbs. and Tom Birrardi again took 22 more fish. Things started to dip on Friday through Sunday. On Friday Tom Frane of Freeport managed 12 flounder to 1½ lbs. Saturday's high hook was 8 and on Sunday PM, Frank Rizzo of Wantagh decked 10 flatties to 1¾ lbs. Shaun Lindroth, age 3, got his first flounder ever.

From the 2 trip a day **Miss Point Lookout**, Capt. Ron told of Tuesday's catch of 25 flounder for Lou Leikin, 35 for George Binder, 30 for Bill Serwoldke, Sam Morton with 30 flatties and Phil Morris with 50. These were mixed fish to a pound. Wednesday saw Howard Thompson with a 2 lb. pool winner and on Thursday Earl French had a 2¼ lb. pool winner. Saturday AM had John Razukiewicz with a 2¼ lb. pool fish and brother Ray with 16. Fishing both trips Saturday Dom and Joe Giordano fished in the rain and took the pool. On Sunday Marv Lipshonsky had 15 fish while Irv Rose took the pool, while in th PM Art Huntstein bagged the 2 lb. pool winner. All fishing was done in the back in Baldwin, Garretts Lead, Reynolds and Jones, with the ebb tide best on worm and mussels.

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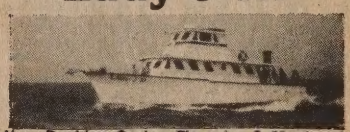

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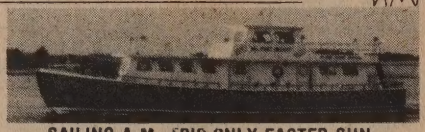

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The word from **Ed's Fishing Station** is that in the early part of the week catches were good. John Malinowsky, Joe Janis and Bernie Zack, all of Maspeth, totalled 45 flounder fishing Sea Dog and Middle Bay. John Mangia and Dom Yodice of Brooklyn hoisted 90 working the flats while John Sanford, Andy Walatek and Frank Hercek of NJ totalled 125 flatties on the flats and at buoy 20 in Reynolds. The station's yearly flounder contest with three grand prizes is under way. The station also has a new program going this season consisting of a free fish dinner at Pt. View Inn if you get skunked fishing out of Ed's.

Beckmann's Tackle in **Lynbrook** knows the fish are there and ready to feed again once the rain stops. Charlie advised the best spots to hit at that point will be in Reynolds at the cement block, Duck Point and virtually all the feeder creeks at Reynolds. The Point Lookout pier should also be fished if you're landlocked.

From **Long Beach Sports Marina** comes word that earlier in the week flounder were being picked at buoy 5 cement block and Duck Point on bloodworms and chum right through Thursday.

NEW YORK BIGHT

From Vi at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** comes word that flounder are still being picked off both north and south channel bridges on worm, clam and mussel. Sizes are mixed and are hitting on any moving water.

The **Capt. Mike** out of **Howard Beach** told of Tuesday's trip on which Ralph Pergolia of Richmond Hills had 27 flounder to 1½ lbs., while Zach and Meti Berisha of Jamaica topped off a 5 gallon pail with flounder. Three fares on Wed. trip had a good catch and Thursday was a slaughter said the skipper. Sixty-three keepers was the count for George Royael with the last of the ebb best all week long for larger fish. Friday was good also, while Saturday's wind and rain kept catch averages to 10 to 20 keepers a man. Mussel and worm work best and action was 15 minutes from the dock on the north side of Jamaica Bay.

From **Santo's Sport Shop** in **Staten Island** we learn the best bet has been flounder at Great Kills harbor running from 1/2 to 3/4 lbs., with a few fish going over a pound. Some short bass at the Midland Beach storm sewers and Penny Beach on worms.

North Shore REPORT
with Marty Carrell

Flounder fishing sputtered somewhat over the weekend as the area endured the third heavy Northeast storm in as many weeks. Fishing between the storms in inshore areas with some warming has been good but reports are extremely spotty under grey skies and in strong winds. Low water temperatures out east (44 degrees in Great Peconic Bay on Friday) keep fish in typical late March areas.

WESTERN SOUND

Jack's Bait on **City Island** now has all the rental skiffs available but nobody fished over the weekend. The **Glen Cove Sport Shop** said that fish were to be found throughout the entire area. John Casciola explained that fishermen were working between the raindrops Sunday, and beside consuming 40 dozen worms per day, they were also buying Gator Bait by the jar.

Joe Ferrara of the **Sea King** called to say that the **City Island** boat caught well up in Oyster Bay on the weekend. Despite the weather, making 30-50 honest keepers per day is not hard. The boat will fish outside on somewhat larger fish to 1 pound as soon as the weather improves and the numbers of fish get better in deeper waters. Dom Cerbone of the **Apache** from **City Island** described that Oyster Bay fishing is "very good" with 30-40 fish per day for those who made the cut at around ½ pound. The Bayville shore, which Cerbone fished during the week, was slower but the fish were nicer and flatties between ¾ and 1½ pounds were the norm with 15-20 per person in a long day's work.

Pete Pearson of the **Klondike VIII** from **New Rochelle** said that there were numerous fish east and west of Matinecock as well as off Bayville that would run over one pound. Oyster Bay, of course had the numbers but "you had to pick 'em."

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

Jerry Cedar at **Huntington Prop** was still at the phones on Sunday afternoon and detailed the fishing on the inside. Crescent Beach, Lloyds and Huntington Harbors were best at high water. Bait with worms and

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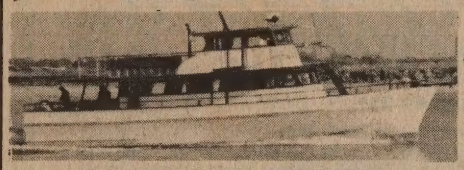

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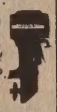

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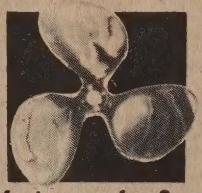

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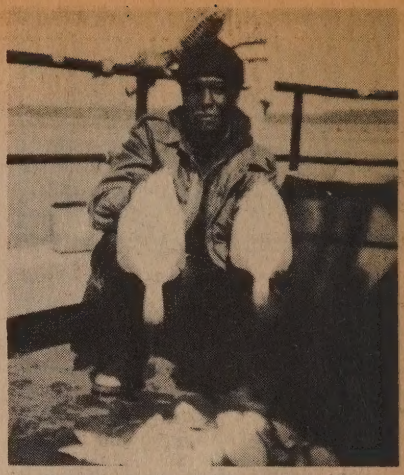

Jimmy Lane with some nice flounder taken during a recent trip aboard the City Island open boat, "Sea King."

chum with mussel!

Tom Bowman at **Bowman's** tried the fishing personally in Northport Harbor. He went through 60 fish to get 7 keepers. According to Bowman there are nice sized fish outside in the Crab Meadow area. Hot water discharges are about the only place to find early stripers right now.

Ralph's Fishing Station in **Mount Sinai** had boats in the water with nobody out over the weekend. Stan at the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** said that flounder had started up near Cedar Beach and Mount Sinai Harbor with 1¾ pound the best weight there. Although Seatauket Harbor has dropped off, Conscience Bay is picking up the slack. Local Sound water temperatures were only 42 degrees.

NORTH FORK

Ed Kopack at **Warren's** in **Aquebogue** described a pretty good week off the mouth of the Peconic River with 20-30 small fish per boat. There were rumors of early catches from the Sound in or around Mattituck Creek and somewhere off Southold, but such catches were made in the middle of last week.

Phil Loria at **Captain Marty's** reported a good week of action through Friday when the easterlies put the damper on things. Nassau Point provided a pick of fish to 2¾ pounds with high numbers around 30 per boat. Fishing there was very, very tide dependent. Results were good on Thursday's high tide, but it was dead on Friday's high. Fish returned at low water late Friday afternoon, however. Dom DeRanieri headmanned a group of four that accounted for an enormous catch of fish mostly from the South Race, over 100 flatties. Roger Rossomagno and Joe Loicano had about half that number as well.

Other private reports showed small boats doing reasonably well up in

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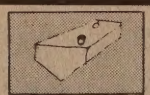
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Richie Lester and George Adlinolzi with 41 big flounder in the 1¼ to 2¾ lb. range taken south of Nassau Point on Mussels and worms. The pair fished out of Captain Marty's Fishing Station in New Suffolk.

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PECONIC STAR
1ST TRIP SATURDAY, MARCH 31
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Dering Harbor and off Conklin's on Thursday and Friday. Richie Jensen of the **Nancy Ann** pulled nearly 200 fish on Saturday and had about 75 in a half day Sunday despite the brutal weather. Jensen found his largest fish on Wednesday with 150 fish for 7 anglers and sizes in the 1½ to 2 pound range. Jensen has been exploring all the way out to Long Beach and says that the fish are just about everywhere from Cedar Beach on out.

Art White at the **A.P. White Bait Shop** in **Greenport** told us that many charters were cancelled Sunday but that private boats had been doing well off Louie's Beach, Shelter Island and off East Marion. White feels that warming waters will bring an upswing in the action in the coming week.

Dave Brennan of the **Peconic Star** caught some good sized fish in a good pick off Dering Harbor during the week. Fish averaged 1½ pounds with a few fish pushing 2 pounds. Brennan took one look at the Sound on Friday and expects to be trying the Sound this week. The Peconic Star will not be taking open boat fares on Easter Sunday.

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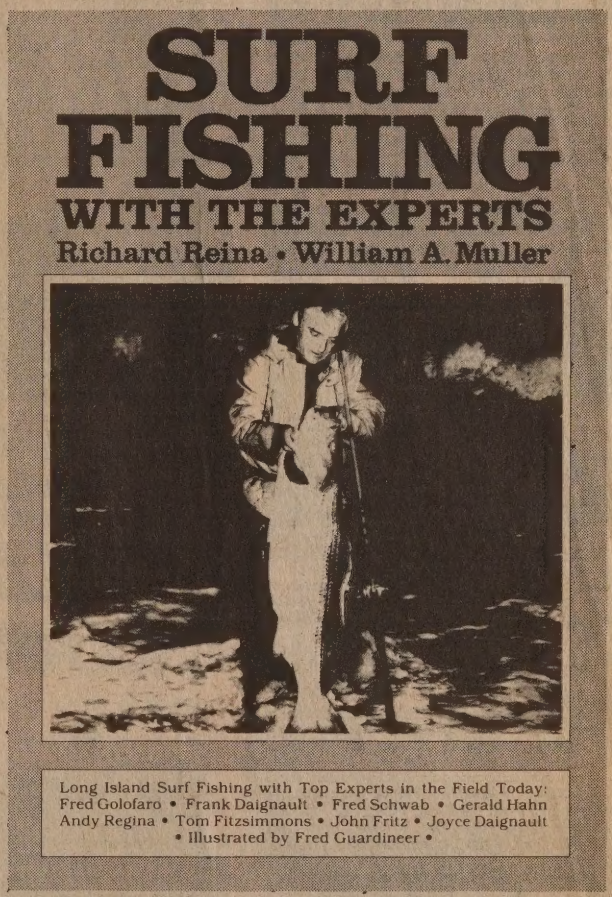
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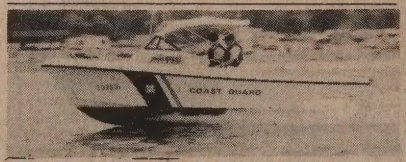

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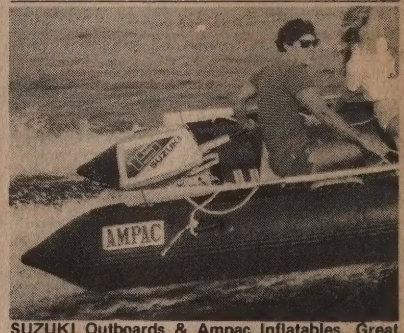

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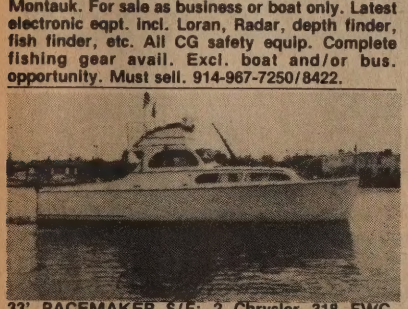

33' PACEMAKER S/F; 2 Chrysler 318 FWC, Flybridge. Sleeps 5. Deluxe galley, elec. ref., VHF, CB, radio, depth recorder, Sniffer, SS Fish tanks. Much more. In water. No dry rot; needs paint job. $3800. Call any time: 212-680-8898.

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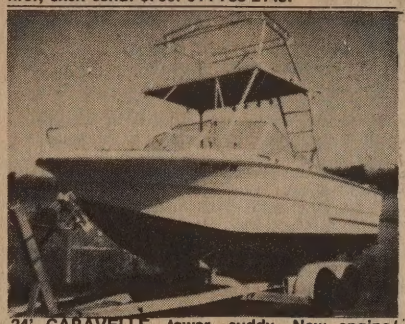

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See our complete lines of DELL Quey:
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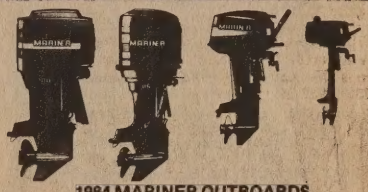
1974 23' SEA BIRD center console, '81, 235 Evinrude. Lo hrs. Dual batt. switch, live bait well, 75 gal. built-in fuel tank, VHF radio & depth recorder. $8000. 1976 200 hp Johnson; lo hrs. Excl. cond. $2000. 516-598-0044.



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55 hp Evinrude, 1981 Commercial O/B. Only 2 months use. Virtually new. Best Offer. 754-2202.

MUST SELL—1982 24' Mannino, cuddy cabin, 150 Mariner. Less than 35 hrs. on rig; 75 gal. gas tank, power trim, Si-Tex 32-E recorder, CB. Boat totally setup for serious fishing. Sleeps 2. Used only one season. $11,500. 203-255-9910. Ask for Bob.

72 SPORTCRAFT HT 25' 215 E I/O, cuddy cabin sleeps 3. Galley, pvt. head, CG pkg. Excl. cond. Must sacrifice; bought new boat. $7000. Leave message at 212-641-2837.

1981 HYDRA SPORT 2100 center console Kevlar, 120 gal. fuel tank, teak seat & tackle chest. Lee outriggers, Lee rod holders, MEICO Loran C, 55 channel, VHF, Lowrance digital, Eagle Mach I chart recorder & much more. 200 hp Johnson w/SST Prop. Caulkins galv. tandem trlr w/brakes & power winch. Mint cond. $17,000. 203-628-2117.

Continued On Next Page

45 CHARTER/Party Boat. Certified 1-40 + 2 passengers. 671 Diesel, Si-Tex recorder, radar, VHF, CB, flush deck, night lights. New CG hull inspection 10-83. Boat working now. Must sell. $19,500 or Best Offer. 516-422-2326.

20' SEA CRAFT cuddy, 175 Evinrude. Full canvas; Shoreline Trlr. More. Mint. $10,500. Days: 516-798-1016.

WANTED: Used boats & motors. We also broker & survey boats. Call PALMER MARINE, 516-623-2972.

'77 FORMULA Thunderbird 18', '79 140 hp Evinrude. Power T/T, SST Prop. New Teleflex & battery. Cox trailer. $5000. 212-882-5746.

EVINRUDE

NEW 1983 EVINRUDES 1983
2-$305; 4-$495; 7.5-$740; 9.9-$960; 15-$1060; 25-$1260; 35-$1410; 50-$2100; 60-$2250; 70-$2500; 90-$2800; 115-$3100; 140-$3800; 150-$4300; 175-$4750; 235-$4900. ELECTRA MARINE, INC., 610 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, NY 11563. Scott & McCulloch parts. FOB/H. WI. 516-599-3003. We ship anywhere.

1974 EGG HARBOR 30' Sportfisherman, Rblt. 225s. New tanks. Canyon rigged. Good cond. Call for specifics. $30,000. 422-4441.

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1980 AQUASPORT 19' 6", 1981 115 hp Mercury O/B. Low hrs.; electronics, Ritchie compass, custom canvas, dual batt., Penn downriggers, 2 winter covers & framing. Bought new; professionally maintained. Immaculate. Days: 212-808-8820. Eves: 914-337-8304.

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1968 41' Hatteras, GM 8/53s, low hrs. Tower, electronics, awlgrip, mint.
1966 41' Hatteras, GM 8/53s. Loaded.
1968 30' Chris Craft Skiff, GM 4/71, 500 hrs. Mint, fast.
1982 26' Fortier, 140 hp diesel, custom
1966 26' Stamas. New Volvo diesel
1965 36' Steel Lobster/Work, GM 6/71, elect. & pots.
$976 30' Scopinich Glass Fisherman, 1982 200 Perkins, electronics. Quality Sportfish Listings Needed.

AQUASPORT 20' Walkaround, Johnson 235 SS Prop, trailer. All 1981. Swim platform, radio. All instruments mint. $14,500. Days: 212-843-7777. Eves: 516-825-1204

MUST SELL: 40' Southbay-offshore S/F, twin 534 SeaMasters. Tuna tower, FB, DF, SS, Loran C. Live bait well; 3 fighting chairs. Good cond. Gene, 516-757-7921.

1981 MAKO 258, 150 Evinrudes, 175 hrs.; 200 gal. fuel. Full canvas; VHF, CB. Like new. Ask: $22,500. 516-751-8992.

1979 F.L. TRIPP 22' Complete Angler, 305 C.I. I/B. Forward & stern controls; DF, VHF, 5 hp O/B. $14,950 negotiable. After 6PM. 765-5675/765-5395.

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1968 BERTRAM Flybridge Sportfish. Radar fish equip.
1968 Bertram Bahia Mar, tower, twin 225. Ready to go.
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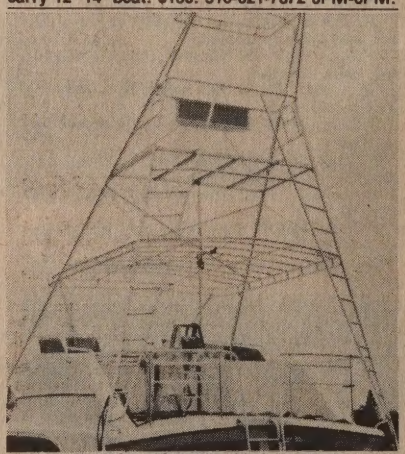

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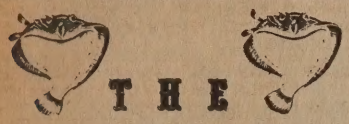

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Custom Spinning Rod 7' 6". Med. action w/650 SS Penn reel. Used 4 times. Cost $160; sell $80. 516-826-2173.

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WARNING
Don't harm your boat's fiberglass finish this year by using one of those harmful one-step hull cleaners. Did you know they contain acid?; or one of those fiberglass yellowing, poly-whatever waxes! There is only one way to do it right, do what many boat yards, dealers & brokers do, call CAPT. MIKE'S BOAT CLEANING washing, machine compounding, hand-waxing, teak refinishing experts, bottom painting. Hull faded? 9½ out of 10 times we can restore even "basket cases." Ask about our m-o-n-e-y saving "Sandersizing" process. 212-894-0335—NY, NJ & LI.

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DIVERS: San Diego & Ambrose Lightship Plans. Shows all deck levels. All compartments. $12 both. 783-7529.

FULL COLOR REPRODUCTIONS 16x20. Mounted in beautifully handcrafted plank-type picture frames of pine with a rich oiled walnut finish. 12 reproductions to choose from: nautical, landscapes, religious-Last Supper; colonial, wildlife, seashore & more! Only $35 w/hardware. Ready to hang. Finish size 21x31. Call PICTURE-PERFECT, 516-348-7023 Eves.

Summer Dockage & Winter Storage avail. Deep, wide, picturesque river in Copiague, 20 mins. to Frank & Dick's. Full service: Mercruiser, OMC & Volvo. Used boats for sale. Check us out. 519 MARINA, 519 Boatyard. 516-842-1579/789-8789.

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RUGGED, compact Tackle Bag, for the fresh & salt water angler to conveniently carry bait, tackle, lures on the party boat, pier, jetty, surf & stream. Constructed w/durable nylon stitching, heavy-weight marine grade canvas & hardware. Measures approx. 3x8x10 inches, with 1 large, 1 medium, 2 small compartments & adjustable shoulder strap. Quality workmanship & materials are used in its construction so that it will provide many years of service at a reasonable price. Tackle bag $17.95 plus $3 post. & handl. Send clearly printed name & address w/check or money order to: L. JASINSKI CANVAS & VINYL SPECIALISTS, Box 208, Hatboro, PA 19040.

HELP WANTED—Must have fishing background. MERRICK TACKLE, Bellmore, NY. 516-781-7766.

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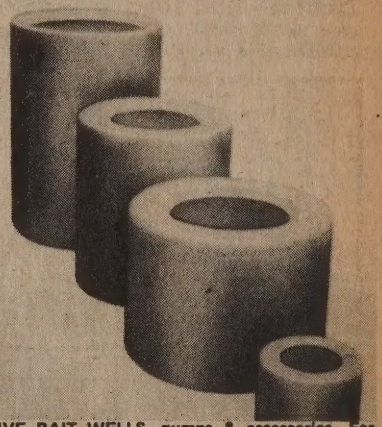

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75 Chev. Subn, 4WD, 4SPD, 350 eng. Beach tires, rod holders, AM/FM cassette. Eves: 981-6733.

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . —0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	10:25	10:50	11:15	11:35	11:15	11:35	—	12:05	1:30	2:20	1:25	2:00	10:20	10:45	4/19
FRI.	11:15	11:40	—	12:05	—	12:10	12:25	1:05	2:25	3:20	2:15	2:55	11:15	11:40	4/20
SAT.	—	12:10	12:30	1:00	12:30	1:05	1:20	2:05	3:30	4:25	3:10	3:50	—	12:10	4/21
SUN.	12:30	1:05	1:25	2:00	1:20	2:00	2:20	3:15	4:45	5:35	4:05	4:50	12:35	1:10	4/22
MON.	1:25	2:05	2:25	3:05	2:15	3:00	3:25	4:20	6:00	6:35	5:10	5:50	1:35	2:10	4/23
TUES.	2:25	3:10	3:30	4:10	3:15	4:00	4:30	5:15	7:00	7:35	6:10	6:45	2:35	3:05	4/24
WED.	3:25	4:05	4:30	5:00	4:15	4:55	5:30	6:05	7:55	8:20	7:10	7:35	3:30	4:00	4/25
THURS.	4:25	5:00	5:25	5:50	5:10	5:45	6:15	6:45	8:45	9:05	7:55	8:20	4:20	4:45	4/26

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehobeth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	—0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	—0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point, north side	—1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	—0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	—1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 4/19	5:14	6:46
FRI. 4/20	5:12	6:47
SAT. 4/21	5:11	6:49
SUN. 4/22	5:09	6:50
MON. 4/23	5:07	6:51
TUE. 4/24	5:06	6:52
WED. 4/25	5:04	6:53

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 4/19	11:27PM	7:44AM
FRI. 4/20	—	8:32AM
SAT. 4/21	12:25AM	9:26AM
SUN. 4/22	1:15AM	10:25AM
MON. 4/23	1:55AM	11:26AM
TUE. 4/24	2:29AM	12:27AM
WED. 4/25	2:58AM	1:28AM

Moon Phases

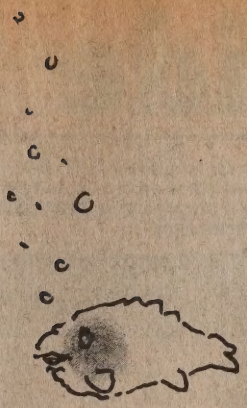
NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
4/1	4/9	4/15	4/23

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	7:55	1:40	8:30	2:15
Fri.	8:55	2:45	9:25	3:10
Sat.	9:50	3:45	10:20	4:05
Sun.	10:50	4:40	11:25	5:10
Mon.	11:40	5:30	—	5:55
Tues.	12:05	6:15	12:25	6:35
Wed.	12:50	6:55	1:05	7:15
Thurs.	1:30	7:35	1:45	7:55



WIMPY RODS CATCH WIMPY FISH.

Do you own a rod that lets trophy fish flick water in your face?

When you hook into a rod-bending, boat-swamping, leaping-lunker of a fish, do you secretly pray that your line will break so that your rod *won't?*

Fishing scared is something you'll never do with an Ugly Stik rod by Shakespeare. This is a rod of Herculean strength.

It'll flat out-fish any other rod, thanks to our exclusive Double-Bilt™ process that literally builds the rod *twice.*

First, ribbons of graphite fibers are wound around and around the circumference of the rod for tough "east to west" radial integrity. Then the rod is covered *again,* this time with fiber-glass fibers running "north to south" to provide additional strength.

That's why we can make this extraordinary guarantee*: if your Ugly Stik rod should ever break under normal fishing conditions, within 5 years of purchase, we'll replace it. Free.

In the end, fishing with an ordinary rod can yield only one result: ordinary fish. So next time you come face to face with a rod-busting, wrist-cracking, record-breaking fish, do it with an Ugly Stik rod by Shakespeare.

And show the sucker who's boss.

Shakespeare®

UGLY STIK RODS®

*According to the terms of the Shakespeare Limited Warranties provided at the time of purchase. Shakespeare Fishing Tackle Division, P.O. Drawer S, Columbia, SC 29260